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ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION
NUMBER

705

OPR: HEALTH SERVICES

HEARING IMPAIRED INMATES

I. GENERAL

This Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) Administrative Regulation (AR) establishes responsibilities, policies and procedures to provide and implement services within the ADOC for auxiliary aids, hearing assistance and devices for deaf or hearing-impaired inmates when clinically indicated.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the ADOC to furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as necessary to afford deaf or hearing-impaired inmates an equal opportunity to participate in the benefits of services, programs, or activities.

III. DEFINITION(S) AND ACRONYM(S)

- A. **Intermediary Interpreter:** Any person able to assist in providing active communication between spoken English and sign language or between variations of sign language, by acting as a linguist between a hearing-impaired person and a qualified interpreter.
- B. **Qualified Interpreter:** A linguist who is able to communicate effectively, accurately and impartially, both receptively and expressively to another, using any necessary specialized vocabulary.
- C. **TDD/TTY (Telephone Device for the Deaf) (Teletypewriter):** A telephone communication device for the deaf or hearing impaired that uses an electronic transmission of text. A text telephone machine similar to a typewriter coupled with a telephone or directly connected to a telephone line that has a message display for those who cannot hear over the telephone.

- D. **Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS)**: A system which allows a deaf, hearing impaired or speech disabled person to communicate with a hearing person who does not have a TTY system.
- E. **Videoconferencing**: A system that provides people at different locations with the ability to communicate with both video and audio capability.

IV. **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. ADOC Deputy Commissioner of Health Services shall ensure by contract or other means that:
 - 1. All services, programs, or activities provided or operated by contractors, shall be in compliance with the ADA as related to the deaf or hearing-impaired.
 - 2. Contracts with those entities that fail or refuse to comply with the ADA, as related to the deaf or hearing impaired shall be subjected to formal review of contract compliance.
- B. ADOC Deputy Commissioner of Health Services will provide an effective means to ensure that qualified interpreters are available.
- C. At each facility the Warden is responsible for:
 - 1. Designating an individual to facilitate equipment needs and services for the deaf or hearing-impaired inmate.
 - 2. Developing their standard operating procedures in accordance with AR 705, Hearing Impaired Inmates.

V. **PROCEDURES**

- A. During the initial intake process, when an ADOC employee or contracted medical/mental health staff are informed or have reason to believe that an inmate has a hearing impairment, the employee or staff shall:
 - 1. Notify the shift commander or psychological associate and refer the inmate to the contract medical provider.
 - 2. The warden/designee shall determine the appropriate initial housing placement prior to medical assessment.
- B. The following should be considered by the physician during the referral assessment: