

PUBLIC NOTICE

Deaf Inmates in Tennessee Prisons: Effective Communication

Disability Rights Tennessee (DRT) and the Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center (CREEC) are currently investigating communication barriers for deaf inmates in Tennessee prisons. This includes prisons operated by the Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC) and by CoreCivic.

If you are a deaf inmate in a Tennessee prison and are having communication problems OR know a deaf inmate in a Tennessee prison who is having communication problems, please contact DRT by phone at 1-800-342-1660 or by email at GetHelp@DisabilityRightsTN.org.

Examples of communication problems include:

- No sign language interpreter for communications like:
 - medical appointments
 - classes
 - classification
 - STRONG-R
- Using other inmates as “interpreters”
- Grievance information only in written English
- No videophones
- Greater access to telephones than videophones
- No visual fire and emergency alarms
- No closed captions on TVs

These are only examples. This is not a complete list of communication problems that may be occurring.

Please post this notice in a public space and share this information with deaf inmates and their friends or family members.