



## **Definitions**

DEAF = “Wholly or partially unable to hear.”

This definition includes other terms such as “hard-of-hearing”, “partially deaf”, “hearing impaired”, “acoustically handicapped”, etc. “Deaf-blind” is also included as needed.

Disability = “Substantial Limitation”

The word is used to replace the term “handicapped” and has been adopted by several (but not all) groups and enforcement agencies as appropriate language. This definition includes any group of individuals that are protected under such civil rights laws as: the Americans with Disabilities Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the Rehabilitation Act. Although deafness is covered under the definition of “disability” in these laws, this term is not intended to describe Deaf individuals.

## **Federal Laws**

### **April 8, 1864**

With a stroke of his pen, President Abraham Lincoln signed the charter changing the name from Columbia Institute for the Deaf and Dumb to the National Deaf Mute College and authorizing the college to confer degrees. E. M. Gallaudet was the first president.

Source: [http://www.gallaudet.edu/history/whats\\_in\\_a\\_name.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/history/whats_in_a_name.html)

### **1867**

Congressional opposition to Gallaudet placed college funding in the hands of a private corporation.

Source: [http://archive.org/stream/jstor-40067031/40067031\\_djvu.txt](http://archive.org/stream/jstor-40067031/40067031_djvu.txt)

**1894**

At the request of alumni, the National Deaf Mute College was renamed Gallaudet College. An act of Congress, in 1954, will finally change the corporate name of Columbia Institution to Gallaudet College.

Source: [http://www.gallaudet.edu/history/whats\\_in\\_a\\_name.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/history/whats_in_a_name.html)

**1920**

From *Legal Rights: The Guide for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People*, fifth edition (2000) printed by the National Association of the Deaf: “Congress passed the first federal laws to help disabled people get job training and find employment. But these laws were clearly inadequate... highly qualified people with disabilities could not find good jobs because of widespread discrimination by private employers and by federal, state, and local governments. Congress later addressed the problem by enacting the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Source: <http://gupress.gallaudet.edu/LR5.html>

**1934**

Communications Act of 1934.

Source: <https://it.ojp.gov/default.aspx?area=privacy&page=1288>

**1954**

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka

Source: <http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/get-involved/federal-court-activities/brown-board-education-re-enactment/history.aspx>

An act of Congress changed the corporate name from Columbia Institution to Gallaudet College.

Source: [http://www.gallaudet.edu/history/whats\\_in\\_a\\_name.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/history/whats_in_a_name.html)

**1957**

Gallaudet College accredited.

Source:

[http://books.google.com/books?id=5Cayh1RrEk8C&pg=PA8&lpg=PA8&dq=Gallaudet+college+first+accredited&source=bl&ots=VL6NWUvQ-L&sig=FJE\\_MEOcmN5vyElO7vN6RIUwMww&hl=en&sa=X&ei=SX68UqaBOPtIsASnqIDYCg&ved=0CEwQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q=Gallaudet%20college%20first%20accredited&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=5Cayh1RrEk8C&pg=PA8&lpg=PA8&dq=Gallaudet+college+first+accredited&source=bl&ots=VL6NWUvQ-L&sig=FJE_MEOcmN5vyElO7vN6RIUwMww&hl=en&sa=X&ei=SX68UqaBOPtIsASnqIDYCg&ved=0CEwQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q=Gallaudet%20college%20first%20accredited&f=false)

American Sign Language: A Student Text by Charlotte Baker-Shenk

**1958**

Public Law 85-926 provided grants for training special education personnel.

Source: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-72/pdf/STATUTE-72-Pg1777.pdf>

**1962**

All Channel Receiver Act

Source:

[ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Bureaus/Engineering\\_Technology/Notices/1995/fcc95389.txt](ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Bureaus/Engineering_Technology/Notices/1995/fcc95389.txt)

**1965**

Division of Handicapped Children and Youth established within the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare

Source: [http://faculty.virginia.edu/johnlloyd/edis511/classes/LD\\_Times.html](http://faculty.virginia.edu/johnlloyd/edis511/classes/LD_Times.html)

**1968**

Architectural Barriers Act

Source: <http://www.access-board.gov/the-board/laws/architectural-barriers-act-aba>

**1969**

Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD) established at Gallaudet College

Source: <http://www.gallaudet.edu/mssd/about.html>

**1970**

Kendall Demonstration Elementary School (KDES) established at Gallaudet University

Source: <http://www.gallaudet.edu/kdes/about/history.html>

**1973**

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Source: <http://webaim.org/articles/laws/usa/rehab>

**1975**

Education for all Handicapped Children Act (a.k.a PL 94-142), renamed Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 1990

Source: <http://www.scn.org/~bk269/94-142.html>

PL 94-142

<http://www.scn.org/~bk269/94-142.html>

[http://www22.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/idea35/hostory/index\\_pg10.html](http://www22.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/idea35/hostory/index_pg10.html)

**1979**

Congress created the non-profit National Captioning Institute (NCI)

Source: <http://www.ncicap.org/about-us/>

Bilingual, Hearing and Speech-Impaired Court Interpreter Act

Source: [http://books.google.com/books?id=w3C-a3LcyrcC&pg=PR49-IA31&lpg=PR49-IA31&dq=the+bilingual+hearing+and+speech-impaired+court+interpreter+act+of+1979&source=bl&ots=TPvXiM3WcA&sig=A4k2jFy0DY0ipRxqVKarWqTOlfo&hl=en&sa=X&ei=6oe9Ut\\_NFenRsATZ9YCQDw&ved=0CEcQ6AEwB\\_A#v=onepage&q=the%20bilingual%20hearing%20and%20speech-impaired%20court%20interpreter%20act%20of%201979&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=w3C-a3LcyrcC&pg=PR49-IA31&lpg=PR49-IA31&dq=the+bilingual+hearing+and+speech-impaired+court+interpreter+act+of+1979&source=bl&ots=TPvXiM3WcA&sig=A4k2jFy0DY0ipRxqVKarWqTOlfo&hl=en&sa=X&ei=6oe9Ut_NFenRsATZ9YCQDw&ved=0CEcQ6AEwB_A#v=onepage&q=the%20bilingual%20hearing%20and%20speech-impaired%20court%20interpreter%20act%20of%201979&f=false)

Closed Captioning: Subtitling, Stenography and the Digital Convergence of Text with Television by Gregory J. Downey

**1982**

Telecommunications for the Disabled Act

Source: <http://transition.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/adaintro.html>

**1986**

Gallaudet College becomes Gallaudet University

Source: [http://www.gallaudet.edu/history/whats\\_in\\_a\\_name.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/history/whats_in_a_name.html)

**1986**

Education of the Deaf Act (PL 94-142) signed

**1986**

Air Carrier Access Act of 1986

Source:

[http://www.pva.org/site/c.ajIRK9NjLcJ2E/b.6305481/k.55E8/Air\\_Carrier\\_Access\\_Act.htm](http://www.pva.org/site/c.ajIRK9NjLcJ2E/b.6305481/k.55E8/Air_Carrier_Access_Act.htm)

**1988**

Hearing Aid Compatibility Act of 1988

Source: <http://www.fcc.gov/guides/hearing-aid-compatibility-wireline-telephones>

**1988**

Telecommunications Accessibility Enhancement Act

Source: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/100/hr4992>

**1988**

Fair Housing Act amended

Source:

[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/fair\\_housing\\_equal\\_opp/FHLaws/yourrights](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/FHLaws/yourrights)

**1990**

Television Decoder Circuitry Act

Source: [http://transition.fcc.gov/Bureaus/OSEC/library/legislative\\_histories/1395.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Bureaus/OSEC/library/legislative_histories/1395.pdf)

**1990**

Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) amended and reauthorized

Source: [http://www.wrightslaw.com/law/reports/IDEA\\_Compliance\\_1.htm](http://www.wrightslaw.com/law/reports/IDEA_Compliance_1.htm)

**1990**

July 26: President George H.W. Bush signs the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Source: <http://www.ada.gov/pubs/ada.htm>

ADA of 1990, amended in 2008 with PL 110-325

Source: <http://www.ada.gov>.

**1996**

Telecommunications Act of 1996

Source: <http://transition.fcc.gov/telecom.html>

**2008**

Amendments made to the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 with The Americans with Disabilities Amendment Act of 2008 (a.k.a. PL 110-325)

Source: <http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/statutes/adaaaa.cfm>