



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.

In Holy Books

The Bible:

Leviticus 19:14

“Thou shalt not curse the deaf...”

Exodus 4:11

Then the Lord said to him, “Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?”

Source: http://www.openbible.info/topics/disabled_people

The Talmud:

Jewish laws classify deaf individuals as unable to participate in legal matters and unable to own property; however, deaf people were exempt from most legal punishment. They could marry if their vows were conducted in sign language and could divorce the same way.

Source: <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/5016-deaf-and-dumb-in-jewish-law>

The Koran:

The Koran mentions the 'deaf' 21 times, but almost every time the Koran mentions 'deaf' or 'deafness,' the reference is to disbelievers, not people with hearing losses.

Source: <http://www.searchtruth.com/list.php>

From the beginning...**347 BC**

Plato philosophizes that people are born with innate intelligence, which was demonstrated through speech. Without speech, deaf people could not express their intelligence, therefore were deemed to be without thought or reason.

Source: <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/books.htm?chapterid=1906710>

Advances in Special Education Chapter *: History of Deafness and Hearing Impairments

322 BC

Aristotle advocates for infanticide of “deformed” children.

Source:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=f1rbNlhpCeIC&pg=PA501&lpg=PA501&dq=Aristotle+infanticide+deformed+children&source=bl&ots=E5stoyQEBJ&sig=tshPyxCKL3KOpDVCTEApLi-pyU&hl=en&sa=X&ei=5Fi4UuzYFonOsASKo4HQAQ&ved=0CD0Q6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=Aristotle%20infanticide%20deformed%20children&f=false>

Hardness of Heart/hardness of Life: The Stain of Human Infanticide by Larry Stephen Milner

Aristotle also determines that “Those who are born deaf all become senseless and incapable of reason.”

Source: <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/books.htm?chapterid=1906710>

Advances in Special Education Chapter *: History of Deafness and Hearing Impairments

55 BC

Cicero repeats Aristotle's advocacy. It is a belief that persons who are deaf and unable to speak are feeble-minded and incapable of independence.

Source:

http://books.google.com/books?id=ZcXRtI4BzdAC&pg=PA24&lpg=PA24&dq=Cicero+advocates+infanticide+for+deformed+children&source=bl&ots=8IFa9OEx_j&sig=7Dgn9RM1nGgM-hLMDfzWspfcWSc&hl=en&sa=X&ei=WVq4UpCZE5PnsATDh4HYAg&ved=0CC4Q6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=Cicero%20advocates%20infanticide%20for%20deformed%20children&f=false

Lend Me Your Ear: Rhetorical Constructions of Deafness By Brenda Jo Bruggemann

380 – 420 AD

St. Augustine of Hippo claims that "Faith comes by hearing" and excluded deaf persons from the Christian faith.

Source: <http://hearinghealthmatters.org/hearinginternational/2013/the-pope-and-deafness/>

Deafness and the Catholic Church by Robert Traynor

530 AD

Benedictine Monks invent sign language to be able to maintain their vows of silence.

Source: <http://www.top.net.nz/~hugh/Vanity/Articles/MonksSL.html>

An Early Sign Language by Hugh Young published in Focus, a newsletter for the deaf

533 AD

The Justinian Code classifies deaf persons separately and among other disabled persons.

Source: <http://books.google.com/books?id=vAKSZPR-hk0C&pg=PA17&lpg=PA17&dq=Justinian+Code+classification+of+the+deaf+and+disabled&source=bl&ots=8hhj3oKXpp&sig=a5-XyJdWNjFjxImZXiSGSh1Ga68&hl=en&sa=X&ei=xW64UvbnBsnPsATDy4CQCA&ved=0CCkQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=Justinian%20Code%20classification%20of%20the%20deaf%20and%20disabled&f=false>

Handbook of Disability Studies Edited by Gary L. Albrecht, Katherine D. Seelman, Michael Bury An Institutional History of Disability

1578

Ponce de Leon begins educating deaf Spanish nobility.

Source: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/469544/Pedro-Ponce-de-Leon>
Encyclopaedia Britannica

1662

The Royal Society of London begins inquiry into the nature of language and the teaching of deaf and blind persons.

Source: <http://hiphilangsci.net/2013/11/06/teaching-language-to-a-boy-born-deaf-in-the-seventeenth-century-the-holder-wallis-debate/>

Teaching Language to a Boy Born Deaf in the Seventeenth Century: The Holder-Wallis Debate By Jaap Maat University of Amsterdam

In the 1700s

More and more asylums, later known as institutions or institutes, for the deaf are established.

Source: <http://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/2038/Hearing-Impairment-TEACHING-METHODS.html>

1720

Daniel Defoe (author of *Robinson Crusoe*) writes *The History of the Life and Surprising Adventures of Mr. Duncan Campbell*, the first “popular” book about the lives of deaf persons.

Source:

http://books.google.com/books?id=fQK55AyHYOMC&pg=PR15&lpg=PR15&dq=The+History+of+the+Life+and+Surprising+Adventures+of+Mr+Duncan+Campbell+published+1720&source=bl&ots=mruQ8LWxUa&sig=UKDfknOSiWP76B08TD0VIQ6qC7A&hl=en&sa=X&ei=5HS4Uva9FuarsQSs_oCQCg&ved=0CC8Q6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=The%20History%20of%20the%20Life%20and%20Surprising%20Adventures%20of%20Mr%20Duncan%20Campbell%20published%201720&f=false

1745

Jacob Rodrigues Pereire begins working with deaf students.

Source: <http://history-computer.com/People/PereireBio.html>

1751

Diderot publishes his study on deaf people.

Source: <http://www.wga.hu/database/glossary/illustr2/diderot.html>

1754

Abbe Charles Michel de l'Epee opens the first no-fee school, the first public school ever, for the deaf in Paris, France. This school, eventually named the National Institute for the Deaf, has many deaf teachers.

Sources disagree on the date. Some give it as 1754, some as 1755 (<http://users.manchester.edu/Student/SMCarmichael/MyWebpage/History.htm>), some as 1760: (<http://elainsaunders.com.au/a-brief-perspective-on-the-history-of-the-education-of-deaf-children/>) and some as 1771. (<http://www.start-american-sign-language.com/history-of-sign-language.html>)

1760

Thomas Braidwood establishes the first school for the deaf in the British Isles, at Edinburgh, Scotland. He later moves his school – one that teaches with an oral, selective, secretive and successful method – to London.

Source: <http://www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/DeafStudiesTeaching/deafed/Session%202A.htm>

At about this time, non-signing (oral) schools were being established in Germany with a strong influence from Samuel Heincke. There were no deaf teachers at these schools.

Source: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/259696/Samuel-Heinicke>

1779

Pierre Desloges, a deaf man, defends deaf education based on sign language in a widely circulated pamphlet.

Source: <http://gupress.gallaudet.edu/excerpts/TDE.html>

1789

Abbe Sicard takes over the National Institute for the Deaf in Paris, France.

Source: <http://hearinghealthmatters.org/hearinginternational/2011/the-french-connection-part-i/>

1792

The Rev. John Townsend, founds the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb located on Old Kent Road, London, with sign language and deaf teachers, eventually headed by Joseph Watson, Braidwood's nephew.

Source: <http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/library-rnid/2012/09/07/rev-john-townsend-1757-1826-founder-of-the-london-asylum/>

Private schools, such as Braidwood's, and tutors were mostly oral with closely guarded methods of teaching.

Source:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=MpWjzZwg7gsC&pg=PA6&lpg=PA6&dq=Braidwood+oral+method+secret&source=bl&ots=ACDB6PLNIs&sig=V80CZeNdmzTsr9Qs0Rf6Na30mY M&hl=en&sa=X&ei=2D-8Uob3O4qxsQTN3oHwCw&ved=0CDoQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=Braidwood%20oral%20method%20secret&f=false>

Never the Twain Shall Meet: Bell, Gallaudet, and the Communications Debate by Richard Winefield

In the 1800s...

1800

Jean-Marc Itard begins working with "Victor", a boy who grew up with wolves and, upon discovery, was transferred to the National Institute for the Deaf in Paris, France.

Source: <http://www.intelltheory.com/itard.shtml>

1812

In Virginia, a Braidwood family member establishes the first school for the deaf in the New World. This school was known as the Cobbs School.

Source: <http://www.connerprairie.org/Learn-And-Do/Indiana-History/America-1800-1860/Education-Of-The-Deaf.aspx>

1816

The Cobbs School closes.

Source: <http://www.connerprairie.org/Learn-And-Do/Indiana-History/America-1800-1860/Education-Of-The-Deaf.aspx>

1817

The Reverend Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, assisted by an imported deaf teacher of the deaf, one Laurent Clerc of the Paris School, open the Connecticut Asylum for the Education of Deaf and Dumb Persons, later named the American School or the Deaf in Hartford, Connecticut.

Source: http://www.gallaudet.edu/clerc_center/welcome/laurent_clerc_the_man.html

1857

The Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind is incorporated in Washington, D.C. by an act of Congress on land that was donated by Amos Kendall.

Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet's son, Edward Miner Gallaudet, was the first superintendent. He brought in his mother, Sophia Fowler Gallaudet, as Matron.

Within a few years, the name became The Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. Blind students were transferred to a school for the blind in Maryland. E.M. Gallaudet found blind students educationally, socially, and recreationally incompatible with deaf students – a salient finding that has escaped notice of successive heads of schools for the deaf and of those dealing with education in our legislature.

The Columbia institution was later separated into the Kendall School and the National Deaf Mute College, the latter becoming Gallaudet College in 1893 and Gallaudet University in 1986.

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

Source: http://www.gallaudet.edu/history/whats_in_a_name.html

Source: https://www.gallaudet.edu/150/learn_more/history.html

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

1867

Feud between E.M. Gallaudet and A.G. Bell begins.

Source:

http://archive.org/stream/ProceedingsOfTheConventionOfTheNationalAssociationOfTheDeaf/Output_djvu.txt

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

Source: http://archive.org/stream/jstor-40067031/40067031_djvu.txt

July 4, 1876

Centenary (100th) birthday of the United States.

August 1, 1876

Colorado joins the Union, thus the "Centennial State." Note that this is two years after the establishment of the Colorado School for the Deaf.

Source: <http://rhapsodyinbooks.wordpress.com/2009/08/01/august-1-1876-colorado-joins-the-union-as-the-38th-state/>

1880

International Conference on Education of the Deaf (the acronym freezes deaf blood) in Milan outlawed the use of sign language in schools for the deaf.

Source: <http://www.milan1880.com/milan1880history/thecongress.html>

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

In the 1900s**1909**

The first compulsory school attendance laws were enacted for deaf and blind children.

Source:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=sXFaytRNneUC&pg=PA313&lpg=PA313&dq=Compulsory+school+attendance+for+deaf+children&source=bl&ots=eMkSb9cDyA&sig=cz4oM7V5Cdw-euVdWFQNX-N-0To&hl=en&sa=X&ei=sng8UumID4issASVwYDQCw&ved=0CFUQ6AEwCA#v=onepage&q=Compulsory%20school%20attendance%20for%20deaf%20children&f=false>

The History of Special Education: From Isolation to Integration by Margaret A. Winzer

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_MEOcmN5vyEI07vN6RIUwMww&hl=en&sa=X&ei=SX68UqaBOPtIsASnqIDYCg&ved=0CEwQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q=Gallaudet%20college%20first%20accredited&f=false

1964

Teletypewriter is invented by Deaf scientist Robert Weitbrech.

Source: <http://deafness.about.com/od/peopleindeafhistory/a/weitbrecht.htm>

The first picture phone was displayed at the World's Fair in New York. Two persons signed to each other to demonstrate this device. It would later be put on hold due to the limitations of copper wiring.

Source: <http://www.wired.com/2012/04/april-20-1964-picturephone-dials-up-first-transcontinental-video-call/>

1969

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

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

In the 1970s

1970

Kendall Demonstration Elementary School (KDES) established at Gallaudet University

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

1978

The National Center for Law and the Deaf was founded.

1978

Deaf advocate Frank Bowe writes and publishes “Handicapping America”, a review of policies that deny people equal access. It was the handbook for the disability rights movement.

1979

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

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

1986

Gallaudet College becomes Gallaudet University

Source: http://www.gallaudet.edu/history/whats_in_a_name.html

California became the first state to mandate and establish a state Telecommunications Relay Program. Other states established their own state relay services and a patchwork of relay services emerged across the country

Source: <https://nad.org/issues/telephone-and-relay-services/relay-services/tty>

1988

Gallaudete University students and Deaf communities nationally banded together to protest the yet another appointment of a hearing president of the University. The Deaf President Now protest brought about legislative and social change within the nation.

Source: <http://www.gallaudet.edu/dpn-home.html>

Dr. I. King Jordan Jr. becomes the first Deaf president of Gallaudet University.

Source: <https://www.gallaudet.edu/history/presidents/jordan-iking.html>

1990

In 1990, Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandated nationwide relay services, to be available 24/7 in every state and territory. More than 100 years after the invention of the telephone, deaf and hard of hearing people could finally make a telephone call to anyone.

Source: <https://nad.org/issues/telephone-and-relay-services/relay-services/tty>

2002

The Federal Communications Commission authorizes the Video Relay Service.

Source: <https://www.fcc.gov/guides/video-relay-services>

2003

Sorenson Media Inc. develops a stand-alone videophone model for the Deaf community to use called the VP-100.

Source: http://www.sorenson.com/company_timeline