



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.

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

1874

The Kansas Territory (of which Colorado was a part) legislature designate a plot of land in Colorado Springs, donated by General William Palmer, as the Colorado School for the Deaf.

Source: <http://www.csdb.org/Default.aspx?DN=b2cfb84c-d975-4f68-8174-2099d5a0356e>

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/>

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

In the 1970s**1973**

Colorado: Education of Handicapped Children (HB 1164) passed by the state legislature. HB 1164 was the forerunner to PL 94-142 in 1975

Source:

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheader=application%2Fpdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1251619438578&ssbinary=true>

In the 1980s**1989**

Colorado General Assembly Senate Bill 171 passes, establishing the Telecommunications Relay Services for Disabled Telephone Users law, providing telecommunications access to deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, speech-impaired and those with central nervous disabilities. This law also included provisions to establish telephone relay services and a Telephone Users Fund.

Source:

<http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschoo/programs/atp/Documents/Telecommunications%20Relay%20Information.pdf>

In Colorado, the Senate Bill 171 also created the Disabled Telephone Users Fund, money allocated to reimburse telephone relay providers for their service and to provide funds for administration and regulation of the bill.

Source: <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7022110899>

In the 1990s**1991**

Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind establishes Outreach Services, programs designed to benefit non-CSDB students, their parents, families, and staff throughout the state of Colorado. Programs and resources are developed to meet a variety of needs, such as early intervention services, professional development and school-age services. Distance learning opportunities are later added to the program offerings.

Source: <http://www.csdb.org/programs-services/outreach-programs-3/>

March 18, 1996

In Colorado, Governor Roy L. Romer signs the Deaf Child's Bill of Rights (formerly An Act Concerning the Education of Children who are Deaf, PL 96-104)

Source: http://www.cohandsandvoices.org/resources/coGuide/14_dcbr.htm

1997

Colorado legislature passes a mandate requiring that newborns be screened for hearing loss, a move towards early identification. The law requires that at least 85% of Colorado's newborns be screened for hearing loss. By 2010, 95% of the babies born in Colorado were being screened.

Source: <http://www.infantheating.org/legislative/summary.html>

In the 2000's**2000**

Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)

Source: <http://www.ccdhh.com/commission/legislation.aspx>

2000

Colorado passes a law requiring that any person employed as an Educational Interpreter full-time or part-time basis must meet minimum standards of having a 3.5+ or better in the four areas of the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA).

Source: <http://www.unco.edu/doit/Resources/Updated%20StateInterpQual%204-05.pdf>

2002

Colorado Telephone Equipment Distribution Program

Source: http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/olls/sl2002a/sl_215.htm

2003

Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind is granted autonomous authority.

Source: <http://www.cohandsandvoices.org>

2004

Colorado passes House Bill 04-1037 mandating that American Sign Language be recognized as an authentic and natural language and that ASL can be taught in schools and colleges across Colorado. This act enables ASL to be taught as a foreign language in higher education institutes.

Source: <http://www.ncssfl.org/links/ASL.pdf>

2006

Colorado Legal Interpreting/Auxiliary Services Act

Source: http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/olls/digest2006a/COURTS.htm

Colorado passes Senate Bill 08-057, an act that mandates that insurance companies are required to cover the cost of hearing aids for minors.

Source: <http://cohandsandvoices.org/resources/sb57/thebill.html>

2009

Colorado passes statute, Senate Bill 09-144, establishing the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, an agency empowered with the responsibility to centralize services and improve access for the deaf and hard of hearing in Colorado.

Source: <http://www.ccdhh.com/pdf/CCDHH%20statute%202010.pdf>

Colorado passes the Colorado Consumer Protection Act. In this law, Title 6, Article 1 addresses the professional integrity of ASL interpreters. Interpreters are thereafter legally accountable for accurately representing their credentials. Interpreters are not allowed to claim themselves as qualified or certified by word, action or suggestion unless they hold the appropriate and current credentials.

Source: <http://www.ccdhh.com/pdf/Statutes/Consumer%20Protection.pdf>
<http://www.ccdhh.com/pdf/Statutes/Interpreter%20Title%20protection%20FAQs%208.24.11.pdf>

2015

May 1, 2015, the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing continuation bill (SB 15-178) was passed and signed by Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper with CCDHH staff members, commissioners and community members present.

[http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2015a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont2/E6969D57A3BFDAEB87257D9000782C57/\\$FILE/178_enr.pdf](http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2015a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont2/E6969D57A3BFDAEB87257D9000782C57/$FILE/178_enr.pdf)

Book Sources

Deaf Heritage: A Narrative History of Deaf America

by Jack R. Gannon; 1981, National Association of the Deaf, Silver Spring, Maryland

Legal Rights: The Guide for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

by staff at National Association of the Deaf, 2002, Gallaudet University Press, Washington, D.C.

Lend Me Your Ears: Rhetorical Constructions of Deafness

by Brenda Jo Brueggemann; 1999, Gallaudet University Press, Washington, D.C.

Turning Points in the Education of Deaf People

by Edward L. Scouten; 1984, The Interstate Printers and Publishers, Inc., Danville, Illinois.