



## THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) — which became law in July 1990 — prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Individuals with hearing and speech disabilities have the right to have 24 hours/7 days per week access to telecommunication relay services through their telephone and internet providers.

- Telephone and internet companies are required to provide nationwide interstate and intrastate telephone relay services for people with hearing and speech disabilities so that they can communicate effectively and equally as anyone else.
- Federally funded public service announcements are legally required to have closed captioning.

Communication accessibility for people with hearing and speech disabilities enables them to use their telecommunication device.

Here are some examples of telecommunication devices:

- TTY (Teletypewriter)
- Cell phone with video capability
- Tablet with video and calling capability
- Uniphone (1000 & 1140)
- EZcom Pro
- Compact/C
- Minicom IV
- Supercom 4400
- Miniprint (225 & 425)
- Superprint (4225, 4425, & Pro80s)