

MCDHH Statement on the Use of Assistive Technology in Medical Settings

The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) has received a lot of questions concerning the use of Assistive Technology in medical settings. MCDHH functions as an agency of the state to advocate for public policies, regulations, and programs to improve the quality and coordination of existing services for individuals with hearing loss, and to promote new services whenever necessary. As part of our commitment to improve the lives and opportunities of all Missourians with hearing loss, we occasionally release position statements about issues important to our constituents. While we have no role or opinion regarding specific new products for deaf or hard of hearing citizens of our state, we strongly support the use of services and assistive devices that are the most appropriate and beneficial for the individual people who use them. To determine the most appropriate communication method, the individual should first be consulted regarding their preferred mode of communication. We would encourage businesses to provide communication that is tailor-made to individuals when this is appropriate and feasible. We expect all people to comply with legal requirements set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) <http://www.ada.gov/hospcombrprt.pdf>.

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