BASIC EMERGENCY SIGN LANGUAGE

WORDS

Deaf
Sign Language
Interpreter
Cop/Police
Fire
Stop
Drive/Car
Name
License
Insurance
Don’t, Do Not
Move
See
Live
What
Which
Yes
No
Hurt
Wait
Registration
Medicine
Help
Hospital

LETTERS

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
I
J
K
L
M
N
O
P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
X
Y
Z

NUMBERS

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

For information, contact the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
Office for Deaf and Hard Of Hearing Services

For Statewide Information call 1.800.628.5115 (ask for ext.3250)  for TTY call 1.866.581.9328 (ask for ext. 3251)

What
Language
No
Yes
Hurt
Help
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Local Deafness and/or Hearing Loss Resource Specialist:

Port Arthur 866.963.3623
Galveston 866.963.3623
San Antonio 800.963.3623

Interpretation Service:

For Interpretation Service:

For Information:

For Information:

For Information:

For Information:
EMERGENCY GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTING WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAFBLIND

1. Let the deafblind person know you are there by a simple touch on the shoulder or arm.

2. People who are deafblind sometimes have usable speech, vision, and/or hearing. Try to determine if the individual prefers speech, American Sign Language, fingerspelling, writing with a dark pen, or print-on-palm (see below).

3. If possible, avoid glare and loud environments.

4. Identify yourself.

5. Communicate directly with the person, even when using an interpreter.

6. Do not assume the deafblind person knows where they are or what is going on. Share as much information as possible.

7. Always tell the person when you are leaving, even if it is for a brief period of time. Leave them as comfortable and safe as possible. It is good to offer them a chair, table, or wall for an anchor.

8. When guiding a person who is deafblind, never place him/her ahead of you. Allow the person to hold your arm above the elbow. It is rarely necessary to “help” the deafblind person sit down or climb stairs; placing their hand on a chair or banister will give them the information they need.

PRINT-ON-PALM

For print-on-palm, use your index finger to trace capital letters into the palm of the deafblind individual, pausing after each word.

SIGN LANGUAGE ALPHABET

The sign language alphabet can be used to spell a word visually or tactually. To “fingerspell” to an individual who is unable to see your letters, you can sign the letters into the palm of the person’s hand.