

**CHAPTER 150****ORGANIZATION OF THE DIVISION OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING****Authority**

N.J.S.A. 34:1-69.1 et seq.

**Source and Effective Date**

R.1992 d.460, effective October 22, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 4267(a).

**Executive Order No. 66(1978) Expiration Date**

Chapter 150, Organization of the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, expires on October 22, 1997.

**Chapter Historical Note**

Chapter 150, Organization of the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, was filed and became effective as R.1992 d.460. See: Source and Effective Date.

**CHAPTER TABLE OF CONTENTS****SUBCHAPTER 1. SCOPE**

10:150-1.1 Division history and purpose

10:150-1.2 Definitions

**SUBCHAPTER 2. OPERATIONS AND SERVICES**

10:150-2.1 Information and referral

10:150-2.2 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day

10:150-2.3 Interpreter Referral Service

10:150-2.4 Dial-A-News Bulletin Board

10:150-2.5 New Jersey Business and Agency Text Telephone Directory

**SUBCHAPTER 3. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**

10:150-3.1 Advisory Council; membership

**SUBCHAPTER 1. SCOPE****10:150-1.1 Division history and purpose**

(a) The New Jersey Division of the Deaf, established by law in 1977, began operations on May 15, 1978 as a division of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Industry. On April 28, 1989, the Division of the Deaf was transferred to the Department of Human Services from the Department of Labor as a result of a reorganization plan. The Division was renamed the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

(b) The purpose of the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is to act as an advocate for New Jersey's deaf and hard of hearing citizens by promoting increased accessibility to programs, services, and information routinely available to the state's general population. Programs and services of the Division are administered by a Director who is appointed by the Commissioner, Department of Human Services.

(c) The Division's services may include, but are not limited to:

1. Information and Referral;
2. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day;
3. Interpreter Referral Service;
4. Dial-A-News Bulletin Board;
5. New Jersey Business and Agency Text Telephone Directory.

**10:150-1.2 Definitions**

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings:

"Deaf" means a hearing impairment of such severity that the individual cannot understand speech through hearing alone, even with the use of a hearing aid.

"Hard of hearing" means hearing impaired persons who are able to utilize their residual hearing through amplification to such a degree that they are able to carry on normal oral communication with a minimum of difficulty.

"Telecommunication device for the deaf or TDD" means a device that permits people with hearing and speech impairments to communicate using the standard telephone system without the aid of an interpreter. It generally consists of a keyboard and a display screen.

"TT" means text telephone and is synonymous with telecommunication device for the deaf.

**SUBCHAPTER 2. OPERATIONS AND SERVICES****10:150-2.1 Information and referral**

(a) The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is a clearinghouse for information on hearing loss in New Jersey. The Division distributes, upon request, information concerning assistive listening devices, telecommunication devices for the deaf, sign language and other relevant topics.

(b) The Division serves as an advocate for deaf and hard of hearing persons seeking services from public and private agencies such as schools, courts, hospitals, employers and government.

(c) The Division makes available to the general public brochures and pamphlets which describe interpreting services, tips on communicating with the deaf, and information on how to use a TDD.

(d) The Division publishes the "Monthly Communicator" newsletter, which is distributed to more than 3,500 deaf and hard of hearing individuals as well as professionals serving the deaf. The newsletter is a major source of information for the deaf community involving cultural, social, educational and employment activities.

#### **10:150-2.2 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day**

The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing annually sponsors Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day in New Jersey. The event was initiated by the Division in 1985 to promote a better understanding by the general public of the deaf and hard of hearing. Many exhibits and information on hearing loss are available during the event. Also featured are performances by deaf and hard of hearing performers.

#### **10:150-2.3 Interpreter Referral Service**

The Division operates an Interpreter Referral Service which is staffed by coordinators who process requests for qualified sign language interpreters. The coordinators will match the appropriate interpreter with the specific needs of the client.

#### **10:150-2.4 Dial-A-News Bulletin Board**

The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing maintains a dedicated telephone line for its Dial-A-News Bulletin Board. The telephone number is (609) 633-9831—TT or PC with modem set at 300 Baud ASCII. The bulletin board enables TT users to access information visually 24 hours a day.

#### **10:150-2.5 New Jersey Business and Agency Text Telephone Directory**

(a) The Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing annually publishes a comprehensive New Jersey Business and Agency TT Directory for use by deaf citizens and agencies serving deaf clients throughout the State.

(b) The Directory provides listings of New Jersey and national "800" numbers, services for the deaf-blind, libraries, police, medical centers, deaf contact centers, interpreters, schools/colleges, referral agencies, State and Federal government, businesses, legal services, mental health services, religious and organizations of and for the deaf. Each entry in the Directory has a TT number accessible to deaf persons.

---

### **SUBCHAPTER 3. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**

#### **10:150-3.1 Advisory Council; membership**

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:1-69.1a, the New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has a 14 member advisory council which supports and guides the work of the Division. The members of the council are unsalaried. Seven public members are appointed by the Governor for staggered terms of three years. Seven representatives, one from each of the following, are ex officio members: the Departments of Education, Higher Education, Health, Human Services, Labor, and Community Affairs, and the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf. Committee chairs appointed covered the following areas: Education, Community Services, Inter-Agency Coordination, Legislative, and Interpreter Advisory Committee.