



For Immediate Release

DeafLEAD Announces Free Interpreting Services for Deaf Victims of Crime

Columbia, MO - DeafLEAD is now offering a 24/7/365 free sign language interpreting for Deaf individuals who have been victims of crime, as well as for hearing service providers working with Deaf victims.

Through the use of a videophone, Facetime, or Skype, DeafLEAD interpreters can facilitate culturally and linguistically effective communication to ensure that Deaf victims are provided accessible services and support. Services may include interpreting crisis intervention, legal and mental health appointments, shelter intakes and support, case management, services provided by law enforcement, and any other victim-related services.

Interpreting services focus on meeting the needs of Deaf individuals who are victims of crime (past or present) including: domestic and sexual violence of adults or children, bullying (cyber, physical, or verbal), teen dating violence, burglary or robbery, child abuse or neglect, elder abuse, drunk driving or other vehicular victimization, human trafficking, any hate crime, identity theft or other financial crime, any form of mass violence, terrorism whether domestic or international, and a violation of a court order.

The DeafLEAD crisis interpreters are CI/CT nationally certified with extensive training and experience working with Deaf victims of crime. It is important to understand that the goal is NOT to absolve agencies from their responsibility of providing accessible accommodations. The goal is to improve communication accessibility for Deaf victims with victim service providers more closely to the time that it is needed. It is hoped that this access to communication will increase the likelihood of Deaf victims successfully living free from their abuser.

**Call the Deaf Crisis Line at 321-800-3323
to schedule sign language interpreting services**

About DeafLEAD: