

# 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

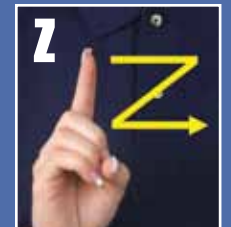
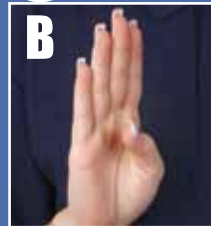


Help



Hospital

## LETTERS



## NUMBERS



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)

Local Deafness and/or Hearing Loss Resource Specialists:

Panhandle North 866.457.7801 South 866.495.8954	Big Country/Red River 866.374.3323	Greater Metroplex East 866.685.0407 West 866.241.1223	Piney Woods 888.313.7851	Golden Triangle/South East Texas 866.772.3256	Houston/Gulf Coast 866.353.7268	Hill Country/Brazos Valley 877.775.8500	South Central Texas 866.349.3272	Permian Basin 877.686.7660	Upper Rio Grande 866.793.1076	Lower Rio Grande North 866.993.1154 South 888.768.1988
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www.dars.state.tx.us

This poster is designed to assist communication between emergency personnel and deaf individuals. It does not replace the requirement for a qualified interpreter. Emergency workers may use these American Sign Language (ASL) signs until a qualified interpreter can be contacted. A list of certified interpreters can be found at [www.dars.state.tx.us/dhhs/beiterpsearch.shtml](http://www.dars.state.tx.us/dhhs/beiterpsearch.shtml)

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# **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.**



**Contact the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services-Deafblind Services**

**For Statewide Information call 1-800-628-5115 (extension 0573-Voice/TTY)**

**Deafblind Specialist for Houston/Beaumont/San Antonio areas: 512-377-0566 (Voice/TTY)**

**Deafblind Specialist for Dallas/Fort Worth/Lubbock/Tyler areas: 214-378-2645 (Voice/TTY)**

**Deafblind Specialist for Corpus Christi/Rio Grande Valley/El Paso/Austin/Waco areas: 512-377-0572 (Voice/TTY)**

**Deafblind Apartments: 512-451-2967 (voice) or 512-451-2974 (TTY)**

*Adapted from information shared by the American Foundation for the Blind*