

“I communicate in American Sign Language (ASL). I cannot communicate well in spoken English. Please provide me with a qualified interpreter.”

By law, the institutions that receive federal funds (i.e., Medicaid, Medicare, Food Stamps) must provide the services of a qualified interpreter to patients/clients who do not speak English well. This law is meant to provide all people with equal access to public services (i.e., at hospitals and doctors’ offices, schools, and government entities). The interpreter’s services must be provided at no cost to the patient/client. We recommend that you note this person’s language preference in his/her file.

To learn more about language assistance, or the law, please call:

CT Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities:

1-800-477-5737

Website: www.ct.gov/chro/

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights:

1-800-368-1019

Website: <http://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/>

U.S. Department of Justice-Civil Rights Division:

1-888-848-5306

Website: <https://www.justice.gov/crt>

