

Visor Identification Cards

By David Myers, Director, DARS Office for DHH Services

DARS, Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS), has developed VISOR IDENTIFICATION CARDS for deaf drivers and for hard of hearing drivers that are for safety and intended for use when a driver is stopped by or approached by law enforcement officers. The visor can be attached to or held by a vehicle's sun visor above the driver's seat. [See samples below]

The visors are available from DHHS by completing a DARS form 3955 that can be obtained from the following link <http://www.dars.state.tx.us/dhhs/dhhsforms.shtml>. Or, request DARS form 3955 by writing to DHHS, P.O. Box 12904, Austin, Texas 78757.

Eligibility, in addition to the application, requires that applicants submit verification of their deafness or hearing loss that interferes with communication. A copy of a Texas driver's license is also required and if the back of the license indicates under "Restrictions," an item like requiring an outside mirror, which means that a person is deaf or hard of hearing, that is acceptable proof of deafness or hearing loss. Or, certification on the DARS 3955 form by a licensed physician or audiologist, that the applicant is deaf or hard of hearing and may have difficulty in communicating with law enforcement officers, is also acceptable.

DRIVER HAS A HEARING LOSS

Name: **SAMPLE**

DARS DIDP#: **00-0000-00**

I have special communication needs.

Failure to cooperate with verbal commands likely means that I am NOT hearing you.

See the back of this card for ways to communicate with me.

TEXAS OFFICE FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING SERVICES

Officer, I have a hearing loss.

- My speech may sound impaired and I have difficulty hearing.
- Background noise makes it more difficult for me to hear.
- I do NOT use sign language.
- I may be able to lip read, or may use an assistive device to help me hear.
- I may not be able to hear you clearly.

How to communicate with me:

- I need a lighted area where I can see your face clearly. I need to see your face to "hear" you.
- Don't shine a flashlight in my face as that interferes with my vision.
- Look directly at me when you speak and do not cover your mouth.
- Speak slowly and separate your words; do not shout.

DRIVER IS DEAF

Name: **SAMPLE**

DARS DIDP#: **00-0000-00**

I have special communication needs.

Failure to cooperate with verbal commands likely means that I am NOT hearing you.

See the back of this card for ways to communicate with me.

TEXAS OFFICE FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING SERVICES

Officer, I am deaf.

- I use sign language to communicate.
- My speech may be difficult to understand.
- I may not be able to understand you by lip reading.

How to communicate with me:

- Don't shine a flashlight in my face as that interferes with my vision.
- I need a lighted area where I can see your face and hands clearly.
- Either write simple instructions on paper or get a qualified sign language interpreter.
- If there is a medical emergency or a law enforcement action, I may be entitled to a qualified sign language interpreter (Title II of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act - www.usdoj.gov).
- To locate an interpreter call _____