

How to Arrange for CART Providers

Contact the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission to obtain a state-wide listing of CART providers. Inform the CART provider of the location, date, starting and ending times, contact person with phone numbers and email addresses to obtain relevant terminology, whom to contact for billing, and whether a computer disk and/or printed transcript of the proceedings will be required. It is also suggested that you inform the provider how many consumers will be present so appropriate equipment can be arranged.

CART is Effective Communication

Federal and state laws require that communication be made accessible for deaf and hard of hearing and speech disabled individuals. Such communication accessibility can be achieved by CART for individuals who do not benefit from interpreting services. CART is considered an assistive technology. The Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act mandate public and private entities and service providers to be responsible for the reasonable cost of providing communication access.



V/TTY: 217.557.4495
V/TTY: 877.455.3323
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CART

Communication Access Realtime Translation



State of Illinois
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
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What is CART?

Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is an assistive technology service that provides communication access by making an instant translation of spoken words into text for individuals with a hearing loss who do not benefit from sign language or oral interpreters. CART is a complete speech-to-text transcript including audible environmental sounds. The transcript is full text, not an abbreviated or summarized rendition of the speech being translated.

Is CART Similar to Court Reporting

Yes, CART is similar to a court reporter in terms of duties. Both are reporters trained to transcribe spoken words verbatim with very minimal errors. However, CART providers have more training in the areas of deafness, deaf culture, communication modes, assistive technology, acronyms, vernacular and vocabulary. Unlike a court reporter, the CART provider's primary role is to facilitate communication rather than simply recording spoken conversations.

How does CART Work?

The Communication Access Realtime Translation provider uses a stenographic machine that is connected to a laptop computer with realtime software. The CART provider types various combinations of keystrokes representing the text of the spoken words into the stenographic machine. The laptop computer then translates the stenographic shorthand into English text that is displayed on a computer monitor, television or overhead display screen. Individuals with a hearing loss reading the printed text have a real time transcript of the speech with which to have a better understanding and involvement in the proceedings.

When Can I Use CART?

CART services are ideal for any situation that requires effective communication. CART services are often used in conferences, group meetings, workshops, classrooms, board meetings, court proceedings, and legislative hearings. CART can be used in business, government, and educational functions, and religious, civic, cultural, recreational, or entertainment events. They can be used for doctor's appointments, employment interviews, self-help meetings and most any situation where individuals with a hearing loss will benefit from enhanced communication.

Ethics of CART Providers

Similar to the sign language interpreting profession, CART providers are trained professionals who provide a service that facilitates communication. Such providers are impartial and are not allowed to give opinions, offer suggestions or comments. CART providers must maintain discretion and confidentiality of the consumers and the proceedings. The CART provider is expected to remain current of the trends, laws, literature, and technological advances relating to CART service.

CART Equipment

The CART provider is responsible for all equipment necessary to transcribe speech into text, including a laptop computer and stenographic machine. The provider may ask whether other equipment is required such as a television, L.E.D. display or projection screen for a larger group. He or she may bring or rent such optional equipment. The CART provider is responsible to ensure hardware and software compatibility.