

CG Docket 08-15

Blaise Delahoussaye

February 4, 2009

-----Original Message-----

From: wolfrog@juno.com [mailto:wolfrog@juno.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 11:24 PM
To: Thomas Chandler
Cc: Gregory.Hilbok@fcc.gov; wolfrog@juno.com
Subject: Video Relay Service for DeafBlind callers

FILED/ACCEPTED

FEB 10 2009

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Thomas Chandler, Chief, Disability Right Office

My name is Blaise Delahoussaye from Maryland and I am myself deafblind with small usable vision due to Retinitis Pigmentosa. I used to love using video relay service (VRS) independently for making some business and personal appointments such as repair service at my house. Cause of my confidence in expressing the meaning of the main reason for those calls in my own sign language freely, I made calls via VRS often than on TTY. But with my deteriorating vision, it's getting harder to follow the VRS interpreter's signing for many reasons. I keep delaying to find someone to help me tactile-relaying what the caller says via VRS interpreter. I feel worn-out in asking the interpreter or the caller to repeat what they have said a few times without assistance - sometimes it has caused confusing or misunderstanding in our conversation. I don't want them to think I'm no good communicator due to my poor vision by looking at the interpreter's signing so hard.

As a local deafblind advocate, I strongly recommend to get more fundings for providing more communication facilitators to work with deafblind callers like me in a time manner wisely and independently. I believe each DeafBlind individual has a right to make some video calls with qualified CFs to keep up our life going on smoothly instead of waiting too long in finding assistance for some important video calls. We need some "peaceful" feelings in making those calls with CFs.

Again, thank for taking this matter with great consideration among DeafBlind Americans.

Sincerely,

Blaise Delahoussaye
wolfrog@juno.com

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