

I am an ASL competent interpreter, relative of several deaf people, friends of deaf people and the business partner of two deaf people. I need a ten digit number and my deaf clients, friends, relatives and business partners need me to have one so they don't have to use VRS to reach me. It is a waste of money to use an interpreter when deaf people and I can communicate directly in ASL without using a relay service. Every time we can make a point to point call and not use the relay service, will be a cost savings and avoid the expense of using VRS.

In addition, allowing people like myself to have 10 digit numbers is functional equivalency for both deaf and hearing people. Hearing people who speak languages other than English do not have to use a third party (interpreter) to speak to one another. They make direct, point to point calls to each other. That is why the FCC should give sign competent hearing people ten digit numbers - so deaf people can have what the ADA requires: functional equivalency to what hearing speakers of foreign languages enjoy.

Before VRS came into existence, I had a tty and communicated directly point to point with my tty to a deaf person's tty. When TRS came into existence, no one stopped me from calling a deaf person, point to point, using my tty. Why is the videophone any different and why can't we just have interoperable equipment and simple 10 digit numbers that work with any videophone? That would be functional equivalence!!!