

I am deaf and use VRS to make doctor appointments, discuss things from the last meeting with doctor and confirm interpreter for any future appointments.

I use VRS for staying in touch with my hearing family and friends, using VRS interpreter, and also with my deaf friends, using direct VP to VP.

I used VRS to find out where to vote and to make sure of accommodations for my physical disability when I voted.

I use VRS to contact my government representatives, to make sure they are aware of my opinions and concerns.

I used VRS to participate in my divorce in another state that I could not attend in person, due to disability and lack of transportation. The judge allowed me to attend the courtroom divorce via VRS. They had never done that before.

I use VRS interpreters to call and talk with family on their birthdays or holidays.

I use VRS to do annual update with my social worker for Medicaid and food debit card.

I use VRS to call my bank, to pay bills via phone, to order purchases from stores by phone, and for many, many things too numerous to count.

Additionally, I want to state that the FCC knows nothing about the Deaf Communication, our special communication needs, and the reason it will NOT work for us to use just any videophone that we buy, to install it & maintain it and to have the correct software needed for the VRS service that we use. Regular videophones do not have the ability to capture high speed communication via American Sign Language (ASL). It would be a BLUR! Videophones for the public are made primarily for AUDIO users of phones, so that they can SEE the person they are talking with. There is no need for ACTION in the videophone. Deaf people completely use action with ASL. We need to be able to clearly see not only the signing, but the facial expressions, which have an impact upon grammar in ASL. I have tried to use webcam to communicate in ASL in the past and it is a dismal failure. These devices are not made with Deaf people and ASL in mind! You must understand our unique needs! We deaf people using Sorenson Communication are a NATIONAL COMMUNITY!! We all have a similar need for a system that works well for the highest quality videophone with ASL.

You may not hear much from the Deaf Community regarding this, because English is NOT their first language. ASL is. If we members of the Deaf community could send videos to the FCC in our native

language, you would see a passionate, vibrant support of the VRS services we are already using.

I am late-deafened, at age 22, and learned ASL and I am passionate about my support of ASL and the current videophone companies that we deaf people are all using. It is VITAL to our continuing participation in daily life.

I especially support Sorenson VRS. They were the first to create and set up videophones and a VRS company that meets our needs and is continually improving their outreach in the Deaf community. I applaud their efforts over the years and do not want to see them go out of business, due to mandated changes that the FCC may decide, before they even know or understand fully our needs, or how it will impact our ability to communicate by videophone.

This will have a direct effect upon us as deaf persons. We will probably see longer hold times for an interpreter, less service quality, etc. I cannot emphasize enough how important PROPER VRS services are available that have been developed with DEAF people and use of ASL in mind. I don't want to see anything changing or limiting a Deaf person's right to communicate via phone, with equal access as people who can hear have. We need videophones that we already have, not ones we must purchase that were not developed for our use as a Deaf person using ASL.

Thank you for viewing my comments. Please consider carefully before making your decision! Feel free to contact me for further clarification or information.

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