

**POLICY FOR PROVIDING INTERPRETING SERVICES IN JUDICIAL
PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF
HEARING**

It is the policy of the Henry County Courts System that in those judicial proceedings where an interpreter is necessary to ensure effective participation by any party, witness, juror, or spectator who is deaf or hard of hearing, the Courts System shall, upon request and with reasonable notice, secure the services of a qualified interpreter. A "qualified interpreter" is one who interprets effectively, accurately, and impartially both receptively and expressively, using any necessary specialized vocabulary and is of good moral character. The Henry County Courts System includes the Superior Court, State Court, Juvenile Court, Probate Court and Magistrate Court. This policy applies to those situations where other auxiliary aids and services, such as real-time transcription, are not equally effective means of communication or are unavailable. This policy does not apply to those situations where providing interpreters to spectators creates an undue financial and administrative burden or results in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the service, program, or activity conducted by the affected court.