



Communication Access Fund FAQ's

How Do I Locate Qualified ASL Interpreters? You may search for interpreters at <https://bei.hhsc.state.tx.us/PublicInterpreterSearch/Search>.

In most legal settings, an interpreter with an Advanced, Master, or Court Interpreter certificate is recommended. Higher levels of certification are recommended for more complex types of communications. For example, whereas a Basic or Advanced certification may be sufficient for a basic intake conversation or initial consultation, a Master or Court Interpreter certification may be needed for detailed discussions of legal matters. To interpret in a Texas court, an interpreter must have a Court Interpreter Certificate. You can find out more about the various types of certification [here](#).

What If I'm Not Sure the Communication Access Fund Will Cover the Auxiliary Aid/Service My Client Has Requested? If you are concerned that the CAF doesn't cover the type of auxiliary aid or service that your client has requested, contact the Legal Access Division at (512) 427-1857.

How Can I Reduce Costs for Auxiliary Aids and Services? The Legal Access Division may offer advice to lawyers concerning how to reduce interpreter costs or seek funding from another entity or source. For example, having a client who is deaf come in for less than one hour on several occasions may be more costly than pooling tasks in a single meeting because interpreters often bill using a one or two hour minimum.

These recommendations are not binding and are not legal advice to attorneys who assist persons with disabilities. Nor should an attorney consolidate tasks or take other cost saving steps which would deny persons with disabilities effective communication or result in unequal treatment of a person with a disability.

Can a Client Get Money From the Fund? No. The CAF is for lawyers to meet the legal needs of persons with disabilities. However, persons with disabilities may obtain fund guidelines to advise courts and lawyers of the fund's existence.

What if the Money Runs Out? Reimbursement requests will only be approved when funds are available.

Can I Count On the Communication Access Fund to Make Me ADA-Compliant?

No, but funds obtained from the CAF will assist you in providing effective communication to your clients with disabilities. Neither the CAF nor the State Bar assumes/removes a lawyer's ADA obligations.

Where Can I Learn More? The U.S. Department of Justice offers excellent materials on Title III obligations under the ADA. See www.ada.gov