

§1419. General provisions

1. Definitions. As used in this article, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Deaf person" means a person whose sense of hearing is nonfunctional for the purpose of ordinary communication. [PL 1995, c. 560, Pt. F, §13 (NEW).]

B. "Hard-of-hearing person" means a person whose sense of hearing is defective, but still functional, with or without amplification. [PL 1995, c. 560, Pt. F, §13 (NEW).]

B-1. "Person with a disability" means a person who is unable to communicate by telephone because of a vision, mobility or other physical or mental impairment. [PL 1997, c. 751, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

B-2. "Specialized customer communications equipment" means communications equipment used by persons with disabilities to conduct telephone communications. "Specialized customer communications equipment" includes but is not limited to teletypewriters, artificial larynges, signaling devices, amplified handsets, telecoil technology, large number dial overlays, direct telephone dialing and fax machines. [PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. UUU, §1 (AMD).]

C. "Speech-impaired person" means a person whose speech is nonfunctional or defective for the purpose of ordinary communication. [PL 1995, c. 560, Pt. F, §13 (NEW).]

D. [PL 1997, c. 751, Pt. A, §2 (RP).]

E. "Telecommunications relay service" means a service transmitting messages and information between a person using standard telephone equipment for spoken communications and a deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired person using a telecommunications device for the deaf. [PL 1995, c. 560, Pt. F, §13 (NEW).]

F. "Late deafened" means that the sense of hearing of an individual is nonfunctional for the purpose of communication and that the individual must depend primarily upon visual communication. The loss of the sense of hearing for a late-deafened individual occurs after the development of speech and language. [PL 2009, c. 174, §20 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. UUU, §1 (AMD).]

2. Specialized customer communications equipment system. The department shall consult with appropriate agencies and organizations serving deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired persons and persons with disabilities concerning the needs of the specialized customer communications equipment system. To the extent that funds are available, the department shall take steps necessary to preserve and maintain a viable specialized customer communications equipment system for use by deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired persons and persons with disabilities in this State, including, but not limited to, providing for repair services and equipment for loaning to persons whose specialized customer communications equipment is being repaired. The department may also use available funds to provide training in the use of specialized customer communications equipment.

[PL 2003, c. 553, Pt. A, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 560, §F13 (NEW). PL 1997, c. 751, §§A1-3 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 377, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 553, §§A1,2 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 174, §20 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 173, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. UUU, §1 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature and is current through October 15, 2024. The text is

subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.