



# *DeafHope*

## **TTYs**



A TTY is a device that Deaf people use with their telephone to make calls. Another term used for a TTY is TDD, which means Telecommunication Device for the Deaf. TTYs are given free of charge to Deaf people and organizations serving the Deaf community by the state government. This device works in a similar way to Instant Messaging - Deaf callers type back and forth on the keyboard to each other and the messages are printed on a small LCD screen. To use a TTY, you place the telephone receiver onto the TTY and call another person. The person you are calling must also have a TTY, placing their phone on it when you call. The callers would then type their conversation back and forth, which would appear as text across the LCD screen. This is often a slow and inefficient way to communicate, since only one person can speak at a time, and any intonations are lost. While TTYs are being replaced with newer technology such as videophones, email and pagers, it is still a low cost alternative that many Deaf people depend on.