

Procedures for Installation of and Monitoring of a DEAF CHILD Warning Sign

Statement of Need

Hearing loss is the most common birth defect in the United States and affects approximately three (3) out of 1,000 live births. Hearing loss incidence rises to six (6) out of 1000 by age five (5) due to illnesses, medications, accidents and delayed genetic onset.

Hearing aids and cochlear implants are common assistive technologies for hearing loss. Their effectiveness is directly related to the acoustic environment. Distance and background noise significantly impede auditory access. Localization of sound (where the sound is coming from) is particularly difficult.

Hearing loss can occur in one or both ears and can vary in type and severity. Most hearing losses cause a reduction in loudness and distortion of the incoming sounds. Although children with unilateral (one ear) or mild hearing losses function well in some listening situations; their ability to detect sound and localize its origin is still compromised.

Motorists may be alerted to areas where children with hearing loss live and play, so that they might reduce their speeds and be vigilant, for everyone's safety. However, the effectiveness of these types of "warning" signs as a deterrent to pedestrian/vehicle accidents has been difficult to measure. The DEAF CHILD warning sign is not intended to regulate speed and is not a guarantee that pedestrian/vehicle accidents will be avoided.

Families are allowed to apply for these signs when they are in a permanent residence (when an anticipated stay is greater than six months). Because of the labor expense involved, DeIDOT limits the number of times it will relocate a sign for a child to two times for the duration the sign is needed.

Criteria/Procedures

1. Parents or legal guardians of children who have a documented hearing loss are eligible to apply for a DEAF CHILD sign.
2. Requests for the DEAF CHILD sign must be made in writing to the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) and signed by the parent or guardian of the deaf child. After verifying the required documentation, a request will be made to the appropriate

responsible signing jurisdiction/agency for their consideration. Upon their approval, sign installation procedures will proceed.

3. On state-maintained roadways, two signs will be placed at the primary residence for the child – one in each direction of travel at the appropriate warning distance to the child's primary residence. The appropriate location of the signs will be in accordance with traffic operations and terrain within the proximity of the residence. Approved signs submitted to DeIDOT for installation may only be placed on state-maintained roadways, not on private roads. If a child resides within town limits, the municipality, which has the responsibility to install the sign, has the option of acquiring the sign and post materials as well as installation services from DeIDOT. DeIDOT will make every effort to work with the local municipality by providing the initial sign, post and installation labor. However, future installation, relocation and maintenance of the sign will be the responsibility of the municipality. If a child lives within a development maintained by a Homeowners' Association (HOA) it is the Homeowners maintenance organization's responsibility to purchase and install the signs.
4. Additional signs for the same child will not be placed at the homes of family members, at the child's bus stop, or on neighboring streets (e.g. paths to school).
5. If distance from other warning signs for the DEAF CHILD warning sign is not available, a supplemental DEAF CHILD plaque may be attached to an existing roadway warning sign at or near where the DEAF CHILD sign was to have been placed.
6. It is the family's responsibility to notify SCPD if any of the following occur:
 - a. The family moves to a new location, **or**
 - b. The family determines the sign is no longer needed, **or**
 - c. The family's contact information changes, **or**
 - d. The child reaches age 18.
7. SCPD personnel may contact the family, at a minimum, every three years to determine if the sign is still needed.

State Council for Persons with Disabilities
410 Federal Street - Suite 1
Dover, DE 19901
Phone: (302) 739-3620
John.McNeal@delaware.gov

Deaf Child Sign Application

TO: State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: DEAF CHILD WARNING SIGN

I would like to request the posting of Deaf Child Warning Sign(s) for the following child. I understand that the effectiveness of these types of “warning” signs as a deterrent to pedestrian/vehicle accidents has been difficult to measure. I understand and accept that this sign will not guarantee my child’s safety and that he/she should be accompanied/supervised by a responsible adult. I have attached the appropriate audiological report documentation (using the attach document button below).

I agree to notify the State Council for Persons with Disabilities **(302) 739-3621** should my child move, no longer require use of this sign, if any contact information changes or when he/she reaches the age of 18.

Today’s Date:
(MM/DD/YYYY format)

CHILD’s Full Legal Name:

CHILD’s Date of Birth:

Street Address:

Development Name and/or Homeowners Association Name

City: State: Zip Code:

Contact Numbers:
Home Phone: Cell: Other:

Name of person completing this form:

Primary Email Address:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & SIGNATURE

AGREEMENT: By signing this Electronic Signature Acknowledgment Form, I agree that my electronic signature is the legally binding equivalent to my handwritten signature.

Whenever I execute an electronic signature, it has the same validity and meaning as my handwritten signature. I will not, at any time in the future, repudiate the meaning of my electronic signature or claim that my electronic signature is not legally binding. I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and warrant the truthfulness of the information provided in this document.

Parent/Guardian: Date:

Signature of Parent/Guardian: Date:

Relationship to Child:

Parent/Guardian's Primary Email Address:

After you complete all required sections, attach required documentation and either electronically sign and submit the application using the "SUBMIT" button to return this document to SCPD for processing – OR – print out a copy of the document, manually sign and submit the document through the U. S. Mail to SCPD, Deaf Child Sign Request Administrator, Margaret M. O'Neill Bldg., Suite 1, 410 Federal Street, Dover, DE 19901.