

BY adding to

Article 30 - Deaf, Mute or Blind
Section 1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1976 Replacement Volume and 1976 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That new Section 1 be and it is hereby added to Article 30 - Deaf, Mute or Blind, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1976 Replacement Volume and 1976 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 30 - Deaf, Mute or Blind

1.

(A) THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:

(1) "AGENCY" MEANS ANY STATE BOARD, COMMISSION, DEPARTMENT OR OFFICER AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO ADJUDICATE CONTESTED CASES.

(2) "CONTESTED CASE" MEANS A PROCEEDING BEFORE AN AGENCY IN WHICH THE LEGAL RIGHTS, DUTIES, OR PRIVILEGES OF SPECIFIC PARTIES ARE REQUIRED BY LAW OR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO BE DETERMINED AFTER HEARING BY AN AGENCY.

(B) (1) IN ANY CONTESTED CASE BEFORE AN AGENCY, IF A PARTY OR WITNESS IS DEAF, OR BECAUSE OF A HEARING IMPEDIMENT CANNOT READILY UNDERSTAND OR COMMUNICATE THE SPOKEN ENGLISH LANGUAGE, THE PARTY OR WITNESS MAY APPLY TO THE AGENCY FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A QUALIFIED INTERPRETER TO ASSIST THAT PERSON.

(2) UPON THE APPLICATION OF THE PARTY OR WITNESS, THE AGENCY SHALL APPOINT A QUALIFIED INTERPRETER TO ASSIST THAT PERSON.

(3) IN SELECTING A QUALIFIED INTERPRETER FOR APPOINTMENT, THE AGENCY MAY CONSULT THE DIRECTORY OF INTERPRETERS FOR MANUAL COMMUNICATION OR ORAL INTERPRETATION TO ASSIST DEAF PERSONS WHICH IS MAINTAINED BY THE COURTS OF THIS STATE.

(C) (1) ANY INTERPRETER APPOINTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL BE ALLOWED COMPENSATION THE AGENCY DEEMS REASONABLE.

(2) IF THE AGENCY HAS BEEN VESTED WITH THE AUTHORITY TO TAX FOR SERVICES AND EXPENSES AS A PART OF THE COSTS OF A CASE, IT MAY IN ITS DISCRETION TAX THE AMOUNT PAID TO AN INTERPRETER AS A PART OF THESE SERVICES AND EXPENSES. OTHERWISE, THE AMOUNT SHALL BE PAID BY THE AGENCY BEFORE WHICH THE CONTESTED CASE IS HELD.