

Subject: [JIT] Letter to the Editor: Hospitals must provide interpreters for deaf

From the Akron, Ohio /Beacon Journal/:

My wife, who was deaf, was a patient recently at two hospitals in the Akron area. During her entire stay, she never received the aid of an interpreter when an explanation of things was needed.

<http://www.ohio.com/editorial/vop/38683839.html>

through all of this without someone she could communicate with, to help her understand exactly what was going on.

Imagine being taken all over the hospital and having things done to you and you have no idea why --- because you can't hear anything. You are reading notes here and there from different people that say: scheduled; rescheduled; you can't eat; you have to; sorry; don't know; will see; I'll ask; try to find out; wait.

Hospitals and doctors are required under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act to provide interpreters. They also have been notified by the Ohio Association for the Deaf about the seriousness of this situation and the problems the deaf community has had for years with no response.

Maybe someone can tell me why and what it takes to get people to understand how important this is.

I was never able to talk to my wife again. She died the following day.