

## Hearing-Impaired Patient: Discrimination Lawsuit Settled.

A deaf individual was a patient in a rehab facility for three separate lengthy admissions for rehabilitation and physical therapy after joint-replacement surgeries.

Despite multiple requests in writing to her nurses, social worker and the administrator, she was not provided with a certified sign-language interpreter except on a couple of brief occasions and was never given a TTY for her phone so she could communicate with her family.

The facility tried to arrange for her daughter to interpret for her, which she insisted was not a suitable substitute for a certified interpreter.

She sued the facility in the US District Court for the District of New Jersey for her terror, frustration and emotional anguish from having to undergo treatment without understanding what was going on and without being able to communicate with her caregivers.

The facility reportedly paid a confidential amount and signed a consent decree that it would not treat deaf people the same way in the future. **Svenson v. Whiting Healthcare, 2010 WL 5857777 (D.N.J., November 30, 2010).**