I AM DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING
This card is for law enforcement officers and others to help with communication.

Quick Communication Tips:
- Get my attention first.
- Maintain eye contact with me while speaking.
- Speak clearly and a little more slowly.
- A hearing aid or cochlear implant does not allow me to understand everything.
- Shining a flashlight in my face will make it hard for me to understand you.

BEST WAY TO COMMUNICATE WITH ME

INFORMATION NEEDED

HELP NEEDED
COMMUNICATION SIGNS
Please point to the picture that explains why I was stopped.

VIOLATIONS/ WHAT IS WRONG?

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

If I am arrested or need to come in for questions, I may need:

- A qualified sign language interpreter
- CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation)
- In order for me to make a phone call, I may need some type of assistive technology. Please ask me what I need.

Created with input from Minnesotans who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.
New communication card helps Minnesotans who are deaf and hard of hearing and police officers

The Minnesota Department of Human Services Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division (DHHSD), has a communication card to help law enforcement (police, state patrol and sheriff) and people with hearing loss communicate better during traffic stops.

DHHSD worked with the Department of Public Safety to develop the communication card. DHHSD thanks all the Minnesotans who are deaf and hard of hearing who helped decide what pictures to use on the communication card.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING:

If you are pulled over by the law enforcement, remember:

**STAY** in your vehicle and **KEEP YOUR HANDS ON THE STEERING WHEEL.**

When law enforcement approaches your window, tell them that you are deaf or hard of hearing (voice or gesture this). **TIP!** If you have the small wallet sized “I am Deaf” or “I am hard of hearing” identification card, place it behind your driver’s license in your wallet or billfold.

**DON’T reach** for the communication card. Tell the law enforcement personnel that you are getting this communication card, and then hand over both the driver’s license and the I am Deaf/Hard of Hearing card when asked. WHY? Law enforcement may think you are reaching for a gun or other weapon! We want you and law enforcement to stay safe.

**Suggested ways to use this communication card:**

1. Keep this communication card in your glove compartment or center console of your car. (You may want to keep it with your Proof of Insurance card.)

2. Point to the glove compartment or center console to show that you need to get the card. (Or voice this.)

3. Make sure the law enforcement understands you before reaching for the card.

4. WAIT for law enforcement to give you permission to get the communication card.

5. You (and law enforcement) can use the card to point to pictures that help with communication.
   - Pictures to show the best way to communicate with you.
   - Pictures to explain what problem you have (such as a flat tire, you are lost, have run out of gas, or need a tow).
   - Pictures explain what information law enforcement needs, what you did wrong (were speeding, ran a red light, etc.), and what will happen as a next step, such as a warning, ticket or possible arrest.

You can download and print additional copies of this communication card from our website: mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing. To request printed copies of this communication card, you may email dhs.dhhsd@state.mn.us or call 800-657-3663 voice or your preferred relay service, or 651-964-1514 video phone. DHHSD staff will need 1) your name, 2) mailing address and 3) the name of the county where you live.
What do these pictures mean?

Write

Text

Voice to Text

Lip-read

Driver’s License

Car Insurance

 Permit to carry card

Hospital

Flat Tire

Tow Truck

Empty gas tank

Slippery/icy Roads

School Zone

Speeding

Seatbelt

Red light

Crosswalk

Texting & Driving

Reckless Driving

Broken Head/taillight

Expired tabs

Drugs/Alcohol

Handcuffs/Arrest

Arrest/Jail
Attention. If you need free help interpreting this document, call the above number.

800-657-3663

For accessible formats of this information or assistance with additional equal access to human services, write to dhs.dhhsd@state.mn.us call 800-657-3663 or use your preferred relay service.