

# INFORMATION SHEET

Technology Solutions



UPDATED: July 2016

CONTACT: (916) 327-3352

---

## American Sign Language Remote Interpreting (VRI) Services

VRI provides infrastructure, service, and training, to accommodate deaf inmates enrolled in vocational or educational courses.

This initiative provides reasonable, yet innovative, accommodations for inmates that use American Sign Language (ASL) under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Combining the use of the internet, the CDCR network, and existing video conferencing infrastructure, it is one of CDCR's technological advancements designed to aid in rehabilitation. VRI also meets a required mandate for CDCR.

The mandate stemmed from the 1994 **Armstrong v. Schwarzenegger** Case - a case that found the State of California not meeting ADA compliance within their prison systems. Not only did the Division of Rehabilitative Programs respond with this initiative in place, but it will continue to expand and develop as its needs are identified.

Teachers and counselors who have one or more ASL deaf inmates in a rehabilitative class or session are trained on implementing this system. This includes operation of the equipment, scheduling VRI services, logging utilization and quality of the video conference sessions.

With the Department of Rehabilitative Programs advancing its rehabilitative efforts, inmates are given more opportunities to reach a successful parole. VRI is an initiative designed to help reduce recidivism and build upon this endeavor.

---

**Location(s):** VRI capability is available at SATF, CMF, RJD and CIM.

---

*CDCR's Division of Rehabilitative Programs (DRP) manages adult inmate and parolee rehabilitative programs. Its top priority is to provide rehabilitative programming and life skills to offenders in an effort to reduce their likelihood of reoffending after their release from prison. DRP is comprised of the Office of Offender Services (OS), the Office of Correctional Education (OCE), and the Office of Program Accountability and Support (OPAS).*

#####