

Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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*Monday-Friday
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Sign Language Interpreter and CART Referral Service



*(401) 222-5300 Voice
(401) 222-5301 TTY
(401) 354-7630 Videophone
(401) 222-5736 FAX*

Email: cdhh.interpreter@cdhh.ri.gov

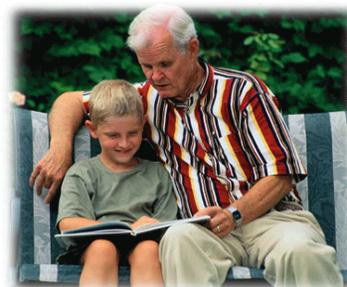
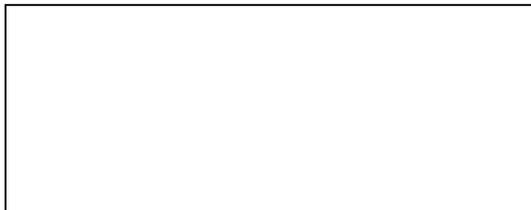
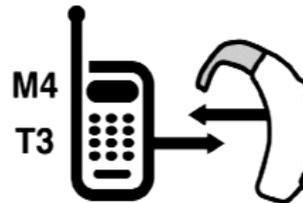


Emergency Sign Language Interpreter Referral Service

(401) 586-6100

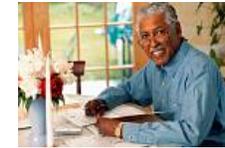
Many public places are equipped with Assistive Listening Devices (ALD). Ask if one can be installed in your church, senior center or social club. You can also purchase personal ALDs for your home or to use at work.

Contact your hearing health care professional to learn more about telecoils and Assistive Listening Devices.

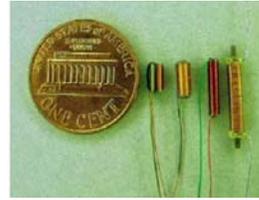


Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

T-COILS & YOU



THE TELECOIL: SMALL TECHNOLOGY, BIG BENEFITS



Magnetic coupling technology, known as telecoil, t-coil, audio switch or t-switch, has been available for hearing aids for decades, and for cochlear implant processors since their inception. Telecoils may be included in, or added to, a hearing aid or cochlear implant processor. Telecoils can be activated before purchase, or by the user via a switch on the outside of the device. Some telecoils are automatic. Not all hearing aids and cochlear implant processors have telecoils. In general, very small hearing aids cannot accommodate a telecoil due to space limitations. Ask your hearing health care professional if your hearing aid has a telecoil or if one can be added.

Telecoil technology allows hearing aid users easy access to sounds from telephone equipment, as well as a number of other electronic audio equipment, including radios, CD players, MP3 players, public address systems, assistive listening devices, and systems in movie theaters.

Induction equipment, like neckloops, can allow hearing aid users with telecoils to receive signals directly from the phone or the electronic audio equipment. Background noise is virtually eliminated and allows the user to hear more clearly.

This is especially helpful for the user in large areas with public address systems, like meeting rooms, airports and churches.

Initially provided on hearing aids to help the user hear better on the telephone, telecoils allow users to talk on the phone without feedback (whistling) from their hearing aids. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 required all land-line phones to be compatible with telecoils. A similar requirement for cordless and cell phones to be telecoil compatible went into effect in 2008.

Many consumers, especially first-time hearing aid users, are unaware of the potential benefits of telecoil technology. They often fail to inquire about telecoils and how to properly use them. Ask your hearing health care professional how to use your telecoil.

There are more than 90,000 people with hearing loss in Rhode Island, and as the Baby Boomer generation ages, that number is expected to rise. Telecoil technology will continue to benefit more and more people.

Assistive Listening Devices

Increasing the volume on your hearing aid may increase both what you want to hear and what you do not want to hear. An Assistive Listening Device (ALD), combined with the telecoil in your hearing aid, may improve your understanding of dialogue on your television.

The telecoil can also make a noticeable difference in your social and professional life. Combining a telecoil with an ALD lets you fully experience movies, concerts, museums, tour buses, churches, and lecture halls. With the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, ALDs are increasingly available in many public places.

An ALD bridges the physical space between you and the sound source. An ALD connects the listener directly to the sound system, while most background noises are eliminated. There are three types of wireless assistive listening systems: *audio induction loop*, *infrared* and *FM systems*.

The *audio induction loop* is a wire that encircles the room and is connected to the sound system. The loop transmits the sound electromagnetically. The electromagnetic signal can then be picked up directly by a telecoil in a hearing aid having a manual t-switch without a separate receiver. Receivers are used by people who do not have telecoils or hearing aids. An *infrared system* uses invisible light beams to carry sound from the source to the receiver. Some infrared receivers allow connection of a neckloop or a behind-the-ear silhouette. The telecoil then picks up sound from the neckloop or silhouette. An *FM system* works similarly, but sound is conveyed through radio waves to the receiver. Some FM receivers allow connection of a neckloop or a behind-the-ear silhouette.