



# STILLWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT



## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES: 122

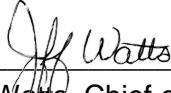
Subject: Hearing Impaired and Foreign Language Interpreters

Section: Administration

Effective Date: January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001

Revised Date: February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013

ADM 01.05

  
Jeff Watts, Chief of Police

### POLICY

It is the policy of the Stillwater, Police Department that all members recognize and comply with those legal rights granted to deaf or hearing impaired individuals as guaranteed by 63 O.S., Section 2407, et seq., and any other law or departmental policy.

### PROCEDURES

Central Dispatch will maintain an updated list of interpreters available to assist in situations dealing with deaf or hearing-impaired persons. Central Dispatch will also maintain a list of interpreters for various foreign languages.

When dealing with hearing-impaired persons in non-arrest situations, attempt to gain their attention by waving, tapping them on the shoulder, etc.

Speak slowly and clearly, looking directly at the person, utilizing body language and eye contact. Try to determine if communication can be achieved through writing, sign language, or an oral interpreter. If an interpreter is needed for either a hearing impaired person or a foreign language speaker, the officer shall contact Dispatch and request an interpreter be contacted from the list maintained in Dispatch.

In an arrest situation, the arresting officer shall make a reasonable attempt to communicate with the deaf person and to advise the deaf person that he has been arrested, the offense for which he has been arrested and the Miranda warning, when necessary.

When a deaf person is arrested and taken into custody, the arresting officer or his supervisor shall notify the appropriate prosecutor that the arrested person is deaf.

The right of a deaf person to an interpreter may only be waived in writing.

It is the responsibility of the Staff Services Lieutenant to ensure that interpreters listed on the call-out list are qualified.

For safety reasons, an interpreter will not be left alone with a suspect without an officer present. All interpreter information will be included in the narrative section of the police report and the arresting officer will notify detention personnel that the jailed suspect is deaf. The actual time that the interpreter was used, together with the fact that an interpreter may be needed for courtroom purposes will also be included in the narrative section of the arresting officer's report.