



Text Telephone Devices (TTY or TDD)

What are TTYs?

Teletypewriters (TTY), Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) and Text Telephones (TT) are special telecommunications equipment used by people who cannot use a regular telephone due to hearing loss or speech impairment.

Conversations are typed on a TTY. Electrical signals (heard as beeps) are sent for each typed letter. The signals travel through the phone line to another TTY where they are converted into letters. There is a screen that displays the typed messages. A paper printout is available on some models.

TTY telephone calls to people who do not have a TTY are made by calling the Relay service (dial 7-1-1).

How can I get a TTY?

The DSDHH staff at your regional center can discuss your needs, demonstrate equipment and help you determine what will work best for you. Some equipment is available through DSDHH's Equipment Distribution Service and other resources. Once you select a system, the DSDHH staff can assist you with an application, provide catalogs from which you can order the desired equipment, or refer you to other available resources. After you receive your system, the DSDHH staff can provide technical assistance, installation and training.

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Examples of TTYs

Portable TTY

- Connects to any TTY-compatible cellular, cordless, pay or standard telephone
- Back-lit multiple character display
- Programmable memory saves and sends memos, stores telephone numbers and TTY conversations
- Rechargeable batteries and AC adapter

Pocket Sized TTY

- Connects to any TTY-compatible cellular, cordless, pay or standard telephone
- Back-lit multiple character display
- Programmable memory buffers for greeting messages
- Signal LED for incoming and outgoing messages

Desktop TTY

- Connects to any TTY-compatible cellular, cordless, pay, or standard telephone
- PC-style keyboard
- Built-in text answering machine with programmable personalized greeting and remote message retrieval
- Long-lasting rechargeable batteries and A/C adapter included

Standard Desktop TTYs

- Direct connection to standard telephone line available
- Printer with selectable print sizes
- Memory dialing and redialing
- Built-in ring flasher
- Auto-answer capabilities (with programmable message)
- Keyboard dialing
- Date/time printed at the beginning of each call

TTY with Large Visual Display

- Built-in Large Visual Display (LVD)
- Built-in printer with 3 print sizes

Connectable Large Visual Display

Large visual display designed to work with TTY or telephones made with voice carry over (VCO) ability.

For more information or to receive assistance, contact the nearest DSDHH Regional Center or visit www.ncdhhs.gov/dsdhh.

Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing (DSDHH)

***2301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2301***

***919-874-2212 V/TTY
919-890-0859 VP
800-851-6099 V/TTY
919-855-6872 Fax***