



### How to contact us:

We have seven Regional Centers throughout the state to assist you with your needs. Please contact the center nearest you for assistance.

DSDHH's phone listing uses the following abbreviations:

**V – voice** (for people who do not use telephone assistive equipment)

**TTY – phone equipment**

(for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf Blind people)

**VP – video phone**

(for people who use sign language to communicate)

### Asheville:

12 Barbetta Drive • Asheville, NC 28806  
828-665-8733 V • 828-333-5830 VP  
828-665-8737 TTY • 800-681-8035 TTY  
800-681-7998 V • 828-670-5054 Fax

### Charlotte:

5501 Executive Center Dr., Suite 200 • Charlotte, NC 28212  
704-568-8558 V • 704-918-1554 VP  
704-568-8505 TTY • 800-835-5302 V  
800-835-5306 TTY • 704-568-9615 Fax

### Greensboro:

122 North Elm Street, Suite 900 • Greensboro, NC 27401  
336-273-9692 V/TTY • 336-429-5644 VP  
888-467-3413 V/TTY • 336-256-0689 Fax

### Morganton:

107 Foothills Drive • Morganton, NC 28655  
828-430-7185 V • 828-475-6606 VP  
828-430-7192 TTY • 800-999-8915 V  
800-205-9920 TTY • 828-430-7193 Fax

### Raleigh:

2301 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-2301  
919-874-2250 V/TTY • 919-890-0858 VP  
800-999-5737 V/TTY • 919-855-6872 Fax

### Wilmington:

3340 Jaeckle Drive, The Randall Bldg., Suite 104  
Wilmington, NC 28403  
910-251-5702 V • 910-777-5770 VP  
910-251-5767 TTY • 800-205-9915 V  
800-205-9916 TTY • 910-251-2677 Fax

### Wilson:

2705 Wooten Blvd. • Wilson, NC 27893  
252-243-3104 V • 252-674-1141 VP  
252-243-1951 TTY • 800-999-6828 V  
800-205-9925 TTY • 252-243-7634 Fax

### Home Office:

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

[www.ncdhhs.gov/dsdhh](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dsdhh)

# Assistive Devices

## What are Assistive Devices?

Assistive Devices are types of equipment that alert people with hearing loss to commonly missed sounds.

## Commonly Missed Sounds

When you have a hearing loss, everyday sounds may become difficult to hear. In many cases, an Assistive Device can help you become aware of these everyday sounds. Some of the sounds you may miss are:

- Telephone Ringing
- Doorbell
- Alarm Clock
- Watch Alarm
- Knocking at the door
- Oven/Microwave
- Timer
- Fire Alarm
- Baby Crying

## How does an Assistive Device Alert Me to a Noise?

Three common methods used to indicate a sound:

1. Make the Noise Louder
2. Vibration
3. Flashing Lights

Devices may use one method or a combination of methods. Assistive Devices may be wireless, wired into the electric system or plugged into an electric outlet.

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State of North Carolina • Pat McCrory, Governor  
Department of Health and Human Services • Aldona Z. Wos, M.D., Secretary  
Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing  
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## Assistive Devices

### Where can I get an Assistive Device?

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.

### Examples of Assistive Devices

#### Alarm Clocks

These clocks offer the option of:

- loud tone alarm
- vibrating alarm
- flashing light alarm
- many styles and colors
- battery powered travel styles

#### Telephone Signalers

Stand-alone telephone signalers offer:

- adjustable ringer tone
- volume control
- flashing light
- connection to a telephone jack

### Examples of Assistive Devices

#### Fire and/or Carbon-Monoxide Alarms

There are several different fire alarm systems that:

- run on batteries
- have a loud alarm
- have flashing lights
- have a bed shaker
- can be wired into the electrical system

#### Door Signalers

Portable door knock sensors are available for traveling. These sensors:

- hang on the doorknob or stick to the door
- flash a light when a knock is detected

Wireless and wired doorbell signalers are also available.

These systems:

- can be wired into your existing doorbell chimes
- can replace your existing doorbell
- can be used without any existing doorbell

#### Weather Alert

A weather alert radio alerts individuals to severe weather alerts issued by the National Weather Service.

### Examples of Assistive Devices

The radios have:

- a strobe light
- bed shaker
- text display describing the emergency

The individual with the hearing loss is alerted to a possible emergency. More information can then be found by turning on the television or checking a weather report online.

#### Personal Pagers

Many different styles of vibrating pagers are available. These pagers use vibration to alert someone to the time or an alarm.

#### Alerting Systems

Alerting systems consist of transmitters and receivers that

- can plug directly into a telephone line
- may be placed in different rooms in the house
- work with a doorbell transmitter
- include receivers which vibrate, flash a light, or emit a loud noise
- can alert you to the telephone, a doorbell, someone knocking at the door, a baby crying, an oven timer, or a fire alarm