



## **ABOUT CART**

Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART), also referred to as realtime captioning or live-event captioning, is a way to transcribe the spoken word into readable English text using a stenotype machine, notebook computer, and realtime software. Through the services of CART providers using the latest realtime technology combined with a stenotype machine and notebook computer, the text appears on a computer monitor or other display and serves as an important communication tool for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or learning a second language. CART provides a complete translation of all spoken words and environmental sounds for the benefit of an individual consumer or larger group in a variety of settings, including classrooms, courtrooms, religious services, conventions and conferences, personal appointments and events, civic events, cultural presentations, or anywhere communication access is needed. Increasingly, CART is being provided remotely via the Internet or a telephone connection.

### **WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME A CART PROVIDER?**

A CART provider is a highly trained professional who possesses the advanced skills required to impartially, effectively, and accurately perform realtime translation.

There are several professional certifications a CART provider might have. The first is RPR, or Registered Professional Reporter. This is the basic level of certification required for court reporting and is the first step in learning the advanced skills necessary to become a CART provider. RPRs have achieved writing accuracy at 225 wpm. Obtaining the CRR, or Certified Realtime Reporter, designation demonstrates a proficiency in realtime translation. A Certified CART Provider, or CCP, possesses the knowledge, skill, and ability to produce complete, accurate, simultaneous translation and display of live proceedings utilizing computer-aided translation in a live event setting at speeds exceeding 180 wpm.

A CART provider must also be sensitive to the varying needs of consumers and has had training in conveying a speaker's message, complete with environmental cues.

### **THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

The Americans with Disabilities Act specifically recognizes CART as an assistive technology which affords "effective communication access." Communication access more aptly describes a CART provider's role and distinguishes CART from realtime reporting in a traditional litigation setting.

### **CART FACTS**

- CART providers most often work as independent contractors.

- More than 28 million Americans are considered deaf or had some form of hearing loss.
- In 1995 one-third of persons 70 years of age and over were hearing impaired.