



Disability Rights Maine (DRM)

Presented by:

Debra Bare-Rogers and Lane Simsarian, DRM Advocates

Disability Rights Maine www.DRME.org

Who We Are

DRM is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and is Maine's designated Protection and Advocacy agency for people with disabilities. DRM represents individuals whose rights have been violated or who have been discriminated against based on their disability. DRM also provides training on rights and self-advocacy and we advocate for public policy reform.

DRM provides the following services:

- * Information and Referral
- * Individual Advocacy
- * Legal Representation
- * Assistance with Self-Advocacy
- * Education and Training (incl. Programs about Communication Access, Vaccines and other Health Care Needs)

Lane Simsarian, Health Communicator: How I Can be a Resource to you?

- * Homebound vaccinations
- * Locating vaccines, treatment, and testing
- * General vaccine related questions
- * Vaccine clinics
- * Accessible health information

Affordability of Vaccines and Testing

CDC's Bridge Access Program

- * Provides no-cost COVID-19 vaccines to people 18 years or older who have no health insurance or whose health insurance does not cover the whole cost of the vaccine
- * Where to find a vaccine?
 - * [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) (search on Bridge Access) or covidaccess.com

CDC's Increasing Community Access To Testing (ICATT) Program

- * Provides no-cost COVID-19 testing to individuals uninsured who have symptoms or have been exposed to COVID-19
- * Where to find free testing?
 - * [Testinglocator.cdc.gov/](https://testinglocator.cdc.gov/)

“Home-Bound” Vaccines

Homebound

- * issues with transportation
- * physical limitations
- * Otherwise unable to leave home comfortably

Call or email me and I will place the referral and the provider will reach out to the client to schedule a time to get a COVID-19 or flu vaccine.

- * **Northern Light/VNA** (covering Androscoggin, Oxford, Sagadahoc, Aroostook, Cumberland, Hancock, Kennebec, Penobscot, York and Somerset counties)

Debra Bare-Rogers, Advocate for Communication Access

FACE-TO-FACE COMMUNICATION

- * Get the individual's attention
- * Maintain eye contact.
- * Provide topic.
- * Be aware of environmental sounds (*radio, TV, AC/heater, open window, other conversations*).
- * Keep your face clear (*i.e. don't cover your mouth; thick mustaches that cover lips are difficult to understand speech*).
- * Ensure good room lighting.
- * Speak at a normal pace and volume.
- * Add natural gestures.
- * Advise of topic change.
- * Check for understanding.
- * Allow extra time for responding.
- * Offer choices.
- * Use a captioning app on your phone.



Use these ideas to help improve overall communication with others!

What is Maine Relay?



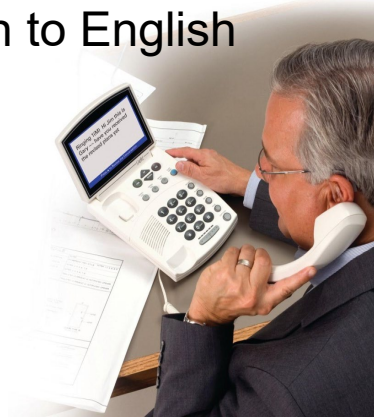
Maine Relay is a statewide service that connects standard (voice) telephone users with deaf, hard-of-hearing, speech-disabled, or late-deafened callers and vice versa.

List of Maine Relay Services:

- 711/Maine Relay, Voice Carry-Over (VCO) and Hearing Carry-Over (HCO), Speech-to-Speech Relay (STS)/ Video Assisted Speech-to-Speech Relay (VA-STS), Internet/Web-based Relay: IP Relay and Relay Conference Captioning (RCC)

Relay available in English to English, Spanish to Spanish, Spanish to English and English to Spanish

Maine Relay <https://www.maine.gov/trs/home>



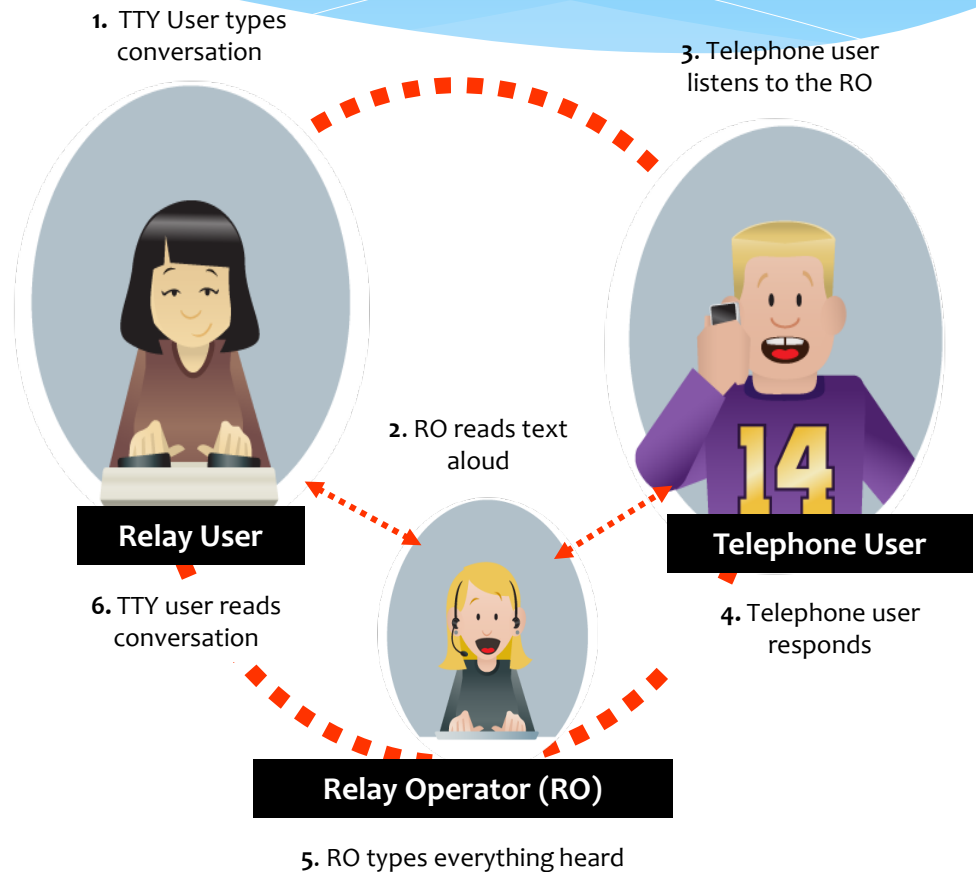
711 / Maine Relay



711 / Maine Relay Service allows a person with a hearing or speech loss to make and receive calls using a Relay Operator (RO) .

The Relay user types his/her conversation using specialized telephone equipment. The RO reads the message aloud and types back what the phone user says.

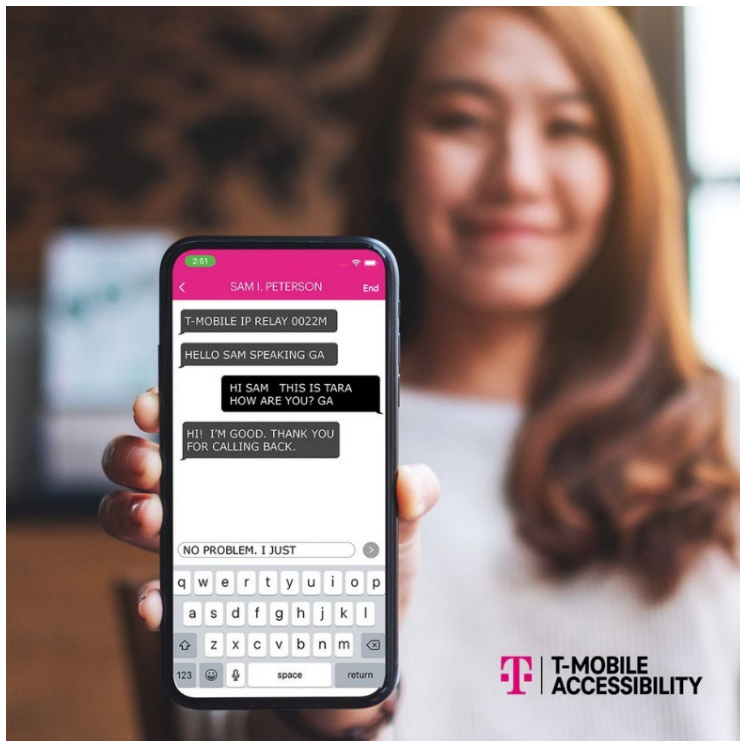
This service does not require registration and is free to use. Long distance charges may apply.



IP Relay



IP Relay allows people who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability to use an internet connection on a computer or mobile device and a relay operator to make and receive phone calls.



- You type what you want to say to the operator, then the operator relays the message to your caller and types their response back to you.
- Can be used on a smartphone, computer or tablet.
- Available to download for apple and android users.

www.t-mobile.com/iprelay

Relay Conference Captioning (RCC)



Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or who have a speech disability can participate in video meetings, video-conferences and multi-party conference calls.



The benefits of RCC:

- Can be used at any computer with internet access
- Receive live captioning
- Free service for Maine residents
- Available Mo-Fr 8AM-8PM, Sa 8AM-2PM local time

<https://www.maine.gov/trs/relay-services#rcc>

TEP Application and Equipment

(TEP = Telecommunications Equipment Program)

Disability Rights Maine administers the Maine Telecommunications Equipment Program.

TEP provides:

- Specialized Telephones and Equipment
- Amplified and Captioned Telephones
- Phone Accessories
- Training and Installation of the Above Equipment
- A Single Hearing Aid per Qualifying Client

FMI: Lisa Penney

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Application Process

- Includes questions to help identify your specific telephone needs
- Submit completed application, with proof of disability and income

Applications available at

<http://drme.org>

Variety of Phone Features

- Tone and Volume Adjustment
- Phone Number Memory
- Caller ID Screens
- Photo Memory Buttons
- Corded and Cordless

All equipment is hearing aid compatible!

**DISABILITY
RIGHTS
MAINE** 

Questions??

If you would like to scheduled a presentation, 1:1 meeting, TEP application, brochure or more information about DRM's programs, contact us: (207) 797-7656 (Local) (207) 766-7111 (Video Phone)

Disability Rights Maine (DRM) has two main offices:

DRM Deaf Services

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Visit us at: DRME.org