

CHAPTER 256C

HANDICAPPED PERSONS

256C.24 Regional service centers.

256C.25 Interpreter services.

256C.24 REGIONAL SERVICE CENTERS.*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1990]***Subd. 2. Responsibilities.** The regional service center shall:

- (a) serve as the central entry point for hearing impaired persons in need of human services and make referrals to the services needed;
- (b) employ staff trained to work with hearing impaired persons;
- (c) provide to all hearing impaired persons access to interpreter services which are necessary to help them obtain human services;
- (d) implement a plan to provide loan equipment and resource materials to hearing impaired persons; and
- (e) cooperate with responsible departments and administrative authorities to provide access for hearing impaired persons to services provided by state, county, and regional agencies.

*[For text of subd 3, see M.S.1990]***History:** 1991 c 292 art 3 s 8**256C.25 INTERPRETER SERVICES.**

Subdivision 1. Establishment. The commissioner of human services shall maintain and coordinate statewide interpreter referral services for use by any public or private agency or individual in the state. Within the seven-county metro area, the commissioner shall contract for these services; outside the metro area, the commissioner shall directly coordinate these services but may contract with an appropriate agency to provide this service. The commissioner may collect a \$3 fee per referral for interpreter referral services and the actual costs of interpreter services provided by department staff. Fees and payments collected shall be deposited in the general fund. The \$3 referral fee shall not be collected from state agencies or local units of government or hearing-impaired consumers or interpreters.

Subd. 2. Duties. Interpreter referral services must include:

- (a) statewide access to interpreter referral services, coordinated with the regional service centers;
- (b) maintenance of a statewide directory of qualified interpreters;
- (c) assessment of the present and projected supply and demand for interpreter services statewide; and
- (d) coordination with the regional service centers on projects to train interpreters and advocate for and evaluate interpreter services.

History: 1991 c 292 art 3 s 9