Deaf Week Fact Sheet #2

Did you know that...
In conjunction with the National Association of the Deaf and the World Federation of the Deaf, Iowa recognizes the week of September 22 - 28 as DEAF AWARENESS WEEK. We share the following information with the Iowa community:

Famous Deaf Person: George Veditz
George Veditz is famous in the Deaf and signing community for his spirited defense, on film and in print, of sign language in the education of deaf children in the early twentieth century. Veditz was born and raised in Maryland and attended Gallaudet College. He was a teacher at the Maryland and Colorado Schools for the Deaf and President of the National Association of the Deaf from 1904 - 1910. One of Veditz’s films can be found in the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress. www.nad.org/news/2012/8/celebrating-george-veditz-day

Deaf Iowa Facts: Iowa Association of the Deaf
Iowa Association of the Deaf (IAD) was founded in 1881, a year after the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) began. IAD was incorporated in 1898, one of Iowa’s oldest non-profit organizations. As a state organization of, by, and for the deaf, IAD exists to secure and promote the well being of deaf Iowans and provide mutual assistance and encouragement. IAD is an affiliate of the NAD. www.iowadeaf.com

Deaf Service of Iowa’s concerns: Accessible Legal Representation
The Deaf Services Commission of Iowa (DSCI) is a Division of Community Advocacy and Services under the Iowa Department of Human Rights. DSCI has been aware that it is difficult for deaf persons to get legal representation, even when courts provide some kind of communication option as required by ADA law. However, the courts do not provide interpreters for client-lawyer meetings, nor do most law firms want to pay interpreter expenses if they meet with a deaf client. Additional legal concerns include the rights of deaf persons when interacting with law enforcement, access to emergency alert systems, and communication access in emergency situations.

Myth: Deaf people hate cochlear implants.
Fact: The Deaf Community advocates for American Sign Language to be taught and used throughout any deaf child’s education and life. Cochlear implants are considered a threat only when coupled with a strictly oral education. For more information and resources for families with a deaf child, please visit the American Society for Deaf Children’s website: www.deafchildren.org

This document was compiled by the American Sign Language Program faculty at University of Iowa. More fact sheets and resources can be found at: http://clas.uiowa.edu/dwllc/asl