Real-Time Captioning (CART)
Frequently Asked Questions

What does CART stand for?
CART stands for Communication Access Real-time Translation. It may also be referred to as real-time captioning.

Who uses CART?
It is used for hard of hearing or deaf people for whom English is their first language, or is their language of instruction.

How does it work?
A person using a court reporting stenography machine, a computer and real-time captioning software types everything that is being said during the meeting or event. The text appears on the computer, a television screen or other projection screen, enabling one or more persons in the room to read everything that is being said. How can someone type that fast?
The captioner does not actually type every letter of every word. The machine, the captioner and the software use the phonetic origin of the word instead of the actual English spelling. What the consumer sees on the screen, however, is a word for word transcript.

Does CART meet federal communication access requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act?
Yes it does, if it is the preferred communication mode of the deaf or hard of hearing individual.

What is the difference between onsite CART and remote CART?
Onsite CART is when a trained captioner travels to your location and provides the captioning services there. Remote CART is when a trained captioner provides services over an Internet connection from an offsite location.

What do I need for onsite CART services?
For onsite CART services where there are only one or two consumers, you don’t need to provide anything. The captioner will bring his or her own laptop computer and stenography machine. The consumers should be seated next to the captioner so they can read the computer screen. If there are more consumers, you will need the following:
- Additional laptops or television screens for the consumers to view the captioning or
- An LCD projector to project the captioning onto a screen or wall

What do I need for remote CART services?
For remote CART, you will need the following:
- A computer with an Internet connection in the room where the meeting or event will be taking place.
- Compatible remote captioning software (can be downloaded free of charge and instructions can be provided).
- A high quality microphone that can be connected to the computer that has the Internet connection and captioning software (see Rates sheet for rental prices).
Utilizing an Internet connection, the offsite captioner can hear what is being said at your meeting or event through the microphone that is connected to the computer at your location. The captioner types what is heard on his or her own computer and the text appears on the computer at your location, again via the Internet connection. You do not need to have high-speed Internet access like DSL or cable, but it is helpful.