

## **Virginia Relay Guide for Understanding Your Relay Choice Profile**

We want to make sure that all the relay calls you make and receive are as individual as you are. Please read the helpful instructions below and complete a customer profile. User preferences are then automatically available to the Communication Assistant (CA) every time you make or receive a call. This can save on call processing time – connecting you with family, friends and businesses in a more efficient and effective manner.

### **1. Customer Information**

Please complete all of the information in this section. This is kept strictly confidential.

### **2. Multi-User Profile/Remote Profiles-Personal Identification Number (PIN)**

The Password and PIN are useful in the following situations: When there is more than one user in your home, when you want to access your profile from a remote location, and when you want to make sure you are the only person who can make changes to your profile. Simply give your password and PIN to the CA to permit him/her to view your selected preferences.

**Password:** Your password prevents other people from changing any information on your profile without your permission. It must be 7 letters and/or numbers.

**PIN:** Your PIN must be 4 numbers.

### **3a. Making Relay Calls**

This section allows you to select the way you **CONNECT TO** relay. *If you live with a person who uses relay differently than you, each person should create his/her own multi-user profile.*

**Language:** If no language selection is made, your calls will be answered by an English speaking CA.

**Voice Carry Over (VCO):** VCO is an effective service for people who have hearing loss and use their voice on the phone. The VCO user speaks directly to the person being called and, through specialized equipment, reads what is spoken by the other party.

**ASCII (Computer/TTY):** ASCII allows a person who is deaf or hard of hearing to type their messages and read the other person's responses. This method of connecting is ideal for a person who uses a computer or a TTY with ASCII settings to communicate through the relay service.

**Hearing Carry Over (HCO):** HCO is especially useful for people who can hear, but who regularly or occasionally have difficulty speaking over the phone. Users listen

directly to the person called and, through specialized equipment, type their responses to the other party.

**Speech-to-Speech (STS):** STS is ideal for individuals who have difficulty speaking. STS relay involves specially trained CAs who are familiar with a wide variety of speech patterns and revoice the relay user's part of the conversation. If you are a STS user, complete Section 5.

**Voice Only:** Voice Relay allows standard phone users to communicate with individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or have difficulty speaking and who may use a TTY, TeleBraille, or other assistive telecommunications device. A CA facilitates the call by relaying messages between the individuals, according to their communication needs.

**TeleBraille:** TeleBraille allows people with combined hearing and vision loss to place and receive telephone calls. TeleBraille users type their messages and read the other person's responses, type by the Relay Operator, on a braille display.

Select **I am a Voice user who wants to call a Captioned Telephone user** when you are a voice user setting up your profile to contact a Captioned Telephone user.

**Gender:** You may choose the gender of the CA you prefer to relay your call. When available, your call will be answered by a CA of that gender; otherwise, your call will be answered by the next available CA.

### **3b. Answering Relay Calls**

This section allows you to select the way you want to **ANSWER** or receive your relay calls.

**Important:** After your Customer Profile has been entered into the database, all relay calls made or received from your profiled phone number will connect automatically as listed on your Profile. *If you live with a person who answers relay differently than you, skip this section.*

### **4. For every Relay call I make, I want...**

Let us know if any of the following features may be helpful to you during your relay call. *If you only use Speech-to-Speech, you may skip this section.*

**Translation:** Native ASL relay users or people who do not feel comfortable with written English can have the CA voice in standard English and type back in ASL word order. The CA will translate for both the TTY user and the voice user unless they are instructed not to.

**Spell Check Turned Off:** By turning spell check off you may run across mistakes or misspelled words. Spell check is turned off automatically when Typing Speed Buffer is requested.

**No Abbreviations:** Typically, the CA will abbreviate words during a relay call. For example, PLS = please, MTG = meeting, TMW = tomorrow. By choosing “No Abbreviations”, the CA will type word for word, without using abbreviations.

**Typing Speed Buffer:** Hamilton’s Typing Speed Buffer feature allows CAs to type at a normal pace while text appears on screen of your device, beginning at 10 words per minute up to 45 words per minute. Relay users can select this in the profile or ask the CA at any time before or during the phone call to adjust the communication speed in increments of 5 words per minute.

## **5. Speech-to-Speech Relay Connections**

This section allows you to select the way you want ALL of your STS relay calls to be handled. *If you do not use STS, skip to Section 6.*

**Revoicing Preferences:** You may choose if you want your voice to be heard by the other party or just by the CA, and/or at what time the CA should assist with the conversation. This privacy feature can be activated or de-activated upon verbal instruction of the STS user while on calls.

**I want the CA to retain specific call content information from calls I make to use for making consecutive calls:** The CA may retain information from one call in a session to be used in consecutive calls within the same session. For example, if you would like to make several calls with the same message, the CA may use the details of the first call in consecutive calls within the same session. This saves you from having to repeat the details several times. Once your session with that CA has ended, the information is no longer available.

**I use a Voice Synthesizer and/or Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Device:** If you use an AAC device, you can provide special instructions to the CA such as make and model information or how to most effectively work with you when you use your equipment. For example, you may want to provide the following instruction to the CA: “CA, if you don’t understand something, tell me to press the Repeat Button on my device.”

**I want the CA to confirm call handling preferences before dialing my requested number:** If you answer “yes” to this question, the CA will verbally confirm all call handling preferences with you before dialing.

**I give permission for callers to provide my name rather than my telephone number when they call me:** This option allows CAs to look for your name in an internal directory to find the number to dial, even if the caller doesn’t know your number.

**Standard First Instructions:** During call set up, the CA will always confirm re-voicing instructions & explanation preferences, ask if you would like the CA to tell the party who is calling, and give the option to provide last minute instructions. You may

provide additional instructions for the CA to always use. Your preference will be stored and the CA will act accordingly.

**Standard Message for CAs to Leave on Answering Machines:** You may store a default message to leave on answering machines and voicemail systems if the CA encounters one. Example: "Hi, this is Bob. Please call me back through STS Relay at 888-272-5530 and ask the CA to dial my number 123-555-4567."

**Availability:** You may indicate what days and times you are available at the number provided with this profile. If you have another number you would like to profile (such as a work number) please complete another form for the customized profile options you would like to be used for that number.

## **6. Deaf-Blind Service (DBS) Relay Connections**

This section allows you to select the way you want ALL of your DBS relay calls to be handled. *If you do not use DBS, skip to Section 7.*

**I want the CA to confirm call handling preferences before dialing my requested number:** If you answer "yes" to this question, the CA will confirm all call handling preferences with you before dialing.

**Long holding times requested:** If this option is selected, the CA will allow for extra time between responses.

**I use a Human Ware® DeafBlind Communicator (DBC) or similar device:** If you use a DBC device, you can provide special instructions to the CA such as make and model information or how to most effectively work with you when you use your equipment.

## **7. Long Distance Company**

Local and long distance calls can be placed at no cost. Payment is necessary for international calls, directory assistance, pay phone and pay-per-call services. Please contact Customer Care for a list of participating long distance providers.

## **8. Speed Dialing**

Write the name, area code and phone number of the people you frequently call. It's that simple! When you want to call that person, first connect to the CA and just tell the CA "Pls call Mom GA". You can have 50 people on your Speed Dial list. Speech-to-Speech users may also indicate if the person they are calling is familiar with STS.

For example: Mom 414-123-4567

Doctor 920-333-4455

Daycare 715-987-4561

## 9. Greetings

The greeting feature(s) you choose will be used on ALL RELAY CALLS.

**I want CAs to use my first name to the people I call:** If you select this feature, the CA will say your name as the call is introduced. For example: "This is Virginia Relay CA #4444 with a call from Bob." If you live with another relay user, this will only work if each person creates his/her own multi-user profile.

**I want CAs to tell the people I call that I am deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or have difficulty speaking:** If you select this feature, the CA will tell the person you are calling that you are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or have difficulty speaking. For example: "This is Virginia Relay CA #4444 with a call from a person who is deaf."

**(NE) Never explain how to use the relay to any person I call:** If you select this feature, the CA will not explain how the relay works to the people you call. For example: "A person who may be deaf or hard of hearing is calling you through Virginia Relay. This is CA 4444. One moment for your conversation to begin."

Virginia Relay uses the following language to explain relay. "The person calling you through the relay is typing their conversation and I will read it to you. When I say, "Go Ahead", it's your turn to talk. Then I will type everything I hear on your end of the line, so please talk slowly and directly to your caller. Please say, "Go Ahead", when you are finished speaking. One moment for your conversation to begin."

**(NI) Never identify the relay to any person I call:** If you select this feature, the CA will not inform the person you are calling that you are using the relay. This works best when a relay user is calling someone who is familiar with the caller and knows how to use relay. If you choose "NI", you MUST also choose "MY HELLO" listed below.

**My Hello:** If you select this feature, the CA will read what you have written as a greeting on all calls. It is very important that the CA has something to say when the hearing person first answers the phone. This greeting is limited to 50 characters including spaces. **Only select this feature if you do not like any of the options above or if you picked "NI".**

**NOTE:** If you have a profiled greeting or if you type a greeting before the CA dials, the CA will read your greeting immediately. For example: "This is Virginia Relay CA #4444 with a call from Bob. Have you received a relay call before? One moment for your conversation to begin. GA".

## 10. Restrictions

You can stop someone from making long distance, international, 900, Directory Assistance or Operator Assisted relay calls from your home. This feature can save you money by protecting your phone bill. Once you choose the kinds of calls you

want blocked, no one will be able to make those types of relay calls from your number.

## **11. Notes**

---

Use this space to provide additional call handling instructions to be stored in your profile.

**When completed please return to:**

**Virginia Relay Customer Care**

**Fax:** 402-694-5110

**Voice:** 866-894-4116

**TTY:** 866-246-9300

**Email:** [VARElay@HamiltonRelay.com](mailto:VARElay@HamiltonRelay.com)

**Or fill out your Customer Profile online at:** [VARElay.org](http://VARElay.org)