



Traffic Operations

Question/Request: DEAF CHILD SIGNS

On occasion the City of Fort Collins Traffic Operations Department will receive a request for Deaf Child signs to be installed on a particular street. The requests are based on the belief that these signs will actually provide protection for a hearing impaired child in the neighborhood. On the contrary, these signs only provide a false sense of security for the parents and the child so the City of Fort Collins Traffic Operations Department **will not install**, or allow private parties to install, Deaf Child signs.



Warning signs are used to inform motorists of unforeseen hazards in the roadway where extra caution is necessary. Typically, warning signs such as Deaf Child and Children at Play are ignored by drivers. This happens because the hazard, (the child,) is not present on a regular basis so the sign itself commands no attention from motorists who regularly pass them. Basically, the signs become part of the landscape and lose all meaning. It has been proven that Deaf Child signs do not increase traffic safety or reduce speeds in any way.

Once a hearing impaired child grows up, or the family moves, it is also required that the signs be removed. In most cases, the City never gets notified and the signs remain when they are no longer needed. Leaving unwarranted signs in areas they are no longer needed leads to sign pollution and diminish the effectiveness of warranted warning signs that are truly needed.

It is the expectation of the City of Fort Collins Traffic Operations Department that motorists should be aware of ALL children in residential neighborhoods and react with caution. It is also important that parents teach their children about the dangers of playing in, or near the road and should discourage them from doing so.