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## Book Review: Deaf People in the Criminal Justice System: Selected Topics on Advocacy, Incarceration, and Social Justice

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**Book Review: *Deaf People in the Criminal Justice System: Selected Topics on Advocacy, Incarceration, and Social Justice***

Guthmann, Lomas, Paris, and Martin’s integrated writings about deaf people in the criminal justice system centers around six themes in this book: accessibility needs; gaps in data collection and research; training for attorneys, court personnel, and prison staff; qualified sign language interpreters; school-to-prison nexus and deaf youth; and the need for advocacy. The book is in three sections focused on (a) research and evaluation; (b) theory, practice, and specialized services; and (c) legal aspects. The chapters are rich with resources, case studies, and figures that bring deaf people’s stories to life. The editors aim to educate people on this often-neglected topic.

The attention this book brings to deaf people’s experiences in the criminal justice system is vital and timely. The text is well referenced, serving as a great historical reference and practical resource. The editors selected a team of authors whose strengths and areas of expertise complemented each other to create a balance of academia, storytelling, and legal rhetoric. The editors and authors offer a gamut of guidance and recommendations from theoretical aspirations to forthright suggestions in order to influence change.

Multiple valuable points were redundant throughout the book, which both drove home the importance of critical issues (e.g., the value of certified deaf interpreters and the lack of qualified professionals to provide mental health treatment to Deaf persons) and distracted from other significant, newer, intriguing connections. Stories about, criticisms of, and recommendations for law enforcement are sprinkled throughout a few chapters, but are primarily in Talia A. Lewis’s chapter, *Disability Justice in the Age of Mass Incarceration*. However, considering the societal climate, the book would have benefited from a section dedicated to sharing meaningful experiences about and exploring literature on the general topic and specific subtopics in law enforcement and the Deaf community.

*Deaf People in the Criminal Justice System: Selected Topics on Advocacy, Incarceration, and Social Justice* holds many gems for readers, whether they read only specific chapters of interest or the whole book. This book appeals to various professionals in the Deaf community, and it could significantly enhance the work of students, educators, researchers, advocates, mental health practitioners, interpreters, and the like. Readers less familiar and integrated with the Deaf community stand to gain an incredible amount of information ranging from Deaf 101 myth-busting to deep examinations of Deaf persons’ stories of inaccessibility and injustice. For professionals working in any area of the criminal justice system, this is a must-read—this reviewer has already sent copies to law enforcement colleagues. The critiques and proposals made toward the criminal justice system and related professionals are essential, valid, and possibly hard to digest. I recommend that those readers engage with this book with an open mind and heart. As an early career clinical psychologist with foundations and ongoing work in forensic psychology, this reviewer is grateful for this volume and what it offers in examining the past and guiding the future of criminal justice and the Deaf community.

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### Reference

Guthmann, D., Lomas, G. I., Paris, D. G., & Martin, G. A. (Eds.). (2021). *Deaf people in the criminal justice system: selected topics on advocacy, incarceration, and social justice*. Gallaudet University Press.