

##C270010 : MAJOR CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

KEY WORD: CRIMINAL / JUSTICE / DEAF

ACHARIYA CHUTINUN : CRIMINAL JUSTICE FOR THE DEAF : A CASE STUDY
OF DEAF ACCUSED OR DEAF DEFENDANT. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO. PROF.
APIRAT PETCHSIRI, Ph.D. 102 pp. ISBN 974-583-848-9

It is evident that in criminal process, the accused and the defendant should possess the full opportunity of the right to defend their cases. In the case that the accused or the defendant are deaf, the aforementioned opportunity is limited by the cause of their own physical deficiency. Due to the fact the criminal process contains both complex question of laws and of facts, deaf accused or defendant must obtain the assistant of sign language interpreter in order to acknowledge and to truly comprehend the proceeding against them.

The writer of this thesis studies the criminal process against deaf accused and defendant in Thailand and finds that legal provisions pertaining to criminal proceeding in this country lacks procedural guarantee of fundamental right for the deaf. This is so because there is no provision where sign language interpreter may be appointed to assist deaf accused or defendant. Comparative study shows that in the United States of America there are many revisions of law concerning the issue both in state and federal level. Laws in the United States today are enacted in such a way that deaf person may enjoy fully the right to defend oneself. Pattern of law reform in the United States may be utilized when the revision of Thai law may take place in the near future.

Lastly, this writer recommends appropriate methods of law revision pertaining to criminal justice process for deaf in the future.