

***The Medical American Sign Language  
Point and Say Phrase Book***

**Book Pitch and Table of Contents by**

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## **THE PITCH**

*The Medical American Sign Language Point and Say Phrase Book* is a vital 200 page reference book of 60 phrases bridges the communication crevasse between the Deaf and Hearing worlds when lives and good health are at stake. Mime and gesturing only go so far in serious communication and another means of understanding must be forged between cultures in order to facilitate the healing process and our book will help build that bridge.

Written in the earnest tone of the great Lou Fant's famous *The American Sign Language Phrase Book* and – we hope with the same warm illustrations of Betty G. Miller – *The Medical American Sign Language Point and Say Phrase Book* will have an evergreen life on bookshelves across the country as an important point of medical reference.

The rise of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires doctors and hospitals and other healthcare entities to provide certified interpreter service for Deaf consumers. Expert interpreters are rarely found on-site and are not immediately available to render service. The time that can elapse between a medical request for interpreting service and the interpreter actually arriving can range from an hour, to three hour to, unfortunately, never.

That Golden Hour must be preserved at all costs – even for the Deaf – and *The Medical American Sign Language Point and Say Phrase Book* is just the instrument to help preserve the Golden Hour by helping buy precious seconds of communication until a proper interpreter can be found.

## **THE HOOK**

In our combined 25 year history of teaching American Sign Language, we believe the hook of this book is in the simultaneous phrase translations found illustrated and written on each page. Readers can flip to the right section, point to a phrase and immediately express their needs and wants in pure American Sign Language or in the accompanying strict English sentences. We will create the best of both worlds on each page and in every phrase.

## **THE COMPETITION**

A search on Amazon.com for “Medical Sign” and “Medical ASL” and “Medical American Sign Language” returned zero results. There is no competition for this reference book. *The Medical American Sign Language Point and Say Phrase Book* both creates and fills the reference niche.

## **THE MARKET**

*The Medical American Sign Language Point and Say Phrase Book* will be an immediate purchase for every hospital, university, public school nurse's station and doctor's office in the nation. Our book will also find purchase in American Sign Language study programs and every Deaf person in America will own a copy of the book and carry it around everywhere to break open “In Case of an Emergency.”

## **THE AUTHORS**

When David met Janna 18 years ago the first book Janna had David purchase so he could learn American Sign Language was Lou Fant's *The American Sign Language Phrase Book* because it was also the first book Janna used to learn sign language when she was a Deaf child stuck in a Hearing world. Lou Fant's book has been a common American Sign Language touchstone for Janna and David throughout their marriage and has served as a tome of inspiration for thousands of their students over the years. Lou's book is also Janna and David's most borrowed book and the book that is most never returned.

**Janna M. Sweeney, M.A.**

Janna is co-author of *Hand Jive: American Sign Language for Real Life* to be published by Barnes and Noble New York in the Fall of 2006. Janna was born Deaf in Council Bluffs, Iowa where she then attended the Iowa School for the Deaf until high school graduation.

Her B.A. in Psychology is from Lehman College in the Bronx where she was one of the first Deaf graduates of that City University of New York institution. Janna's degree in Deafness Rehabilitation is from New York University. For the past 14 years at NYU she has taught six ASL courses a year from levels 1 to 4 and she currently works as a VESID counselor for the New York State Education Department.

Janna's medical interpreting experience is deep and far. She was contacted this week by the Beth Israel Medical Center at Kings Highway to help them create an ADA-compliant professional grade interpreting program for the hospital.

When Janna was Senior Counselor for the New York Society for the Deaf's Tanya Tower Housing Project she would regularly interpret for her clients in a wide variety of medical situations: Emergency Room, Doctor's Office, Ambulance call or Fire Department first responders.

As the Building Manager for NYSD's Co-Op City apartment complex in the Bronx, Janna did emergency interpreting – ectopic pregnancies, knife wounds, pill overdoses, fist fights, spousal abuse – for first responders and hospital emergency rooms both for the Hearing and for her Deaf residents.

Janna's rare gift is that of the middleman stuck, but balancing, between two worlds – the Deaf and the Hearing – and she is able to successfully facilitate meaning and understanding between a vast gap of language inadequacies in life and death situations.

She is also SPCI - Rated "Superior Plus" in American Sign Language and a full narrative biography for Janna may be found online at <http://BolesBooks.com/sweeney.html>

**David W. Boles, M.F.A.**

David is co-author of *Hand Jive: American Sign Language for Real Life* to be published by Barnes and Noble New York in the Fall of 2006.

David is also the polymathic author of “Windows 95 Communication and Online Secrets” for IDG Books Worldwide and his periodicals work include c|net’s “Builder.com,” “Windows Magazine” and “Boot.” He served as the East Coast Editor for “Eyepiece” – the Official Publication of the Guild of British Cinematographers.

David’s background in medicine and Public Health is wide and long. He teaches how health crises reflected in the Humanities influence and inform international Public Health policy. He is a part-time faculty member at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey’s Graduate School of Public Health in the Division of Preventative Medicine and Community Health, Department of Quantitative Methods: Biostatistics and Epidemiology. He teaches M.P.H. students and MDs seeking doctorates in Public Health what it means to be qualitatively human in a scientific world.

You may read some of the research and writing of his former UMDNJ graduate students here: <http://scientificaesthetic.com/publications> in *The Scientific Aesthetic Quarterly*.

David recently served a Visiting Professorship with the University of California, Davis Program in Sports Medicine where he studied and researched the causes and the remedies for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) as it concerns young athletes dying early.

David is finishing writing a case study concerning killer nurse Charles “The Angel of Death” Cullen entitled *A Nosocomial Outbreak* for the University of Medicine and Dentistry’s Center for Case-Based Training Institute and the Center for Bio-Defense.

David has also taught World and Dramatic Literature at New Jersey Institute of Technology and Theatre and Forensic Speech at Rutgers University-Newark. Other teaching credits include Fordham University, Columbia University, the College of New Rochelle and Saint Peter’s College and he taught American Sign Language at New York University. A full narrative biography may found online at <http://BolesBooks.com/boles.html>

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

(Note: We can make these phrases less complex or more complex as needed and we can natively add options and increments as part of the “point and say” phrase style of the book if that works best.

We can also separate the Parts into phrases for patients and phrases for medical professionals but right now they’re mixed to create ease-of-use in finding similar ideas on the page together in the scope of a natural conversation style without having to worry about checking an Index or turning a page.)

### Introduction

#### Part I: The First Responders

48 pages

##### Instant Communication

Where are you hurt?

Dial 911.

I can’t breathe.

I am having chest pains.

Stay calm.

I will help you.

I don’t understand you.

We are going to the hospital.

##### Quick Phrases

Now.

Stay.

Don’t move.

Help.

Hurt.

Come with me.

Here.

Go!

##### Telling Time

Hours

Minutes

##### Amounts and Numbers

1-10

Every Day

Twice a Day

Once a Week

## Calendars

Days of the Week  
Today  
Tomorrow  
This Week  
Next Week  
Next Month  
Right Now!

## Part II: The Hospital

48 pages

### Emergency Department

I am your nurse.  
You need a shot.  
I am bleeding.  
It hurts here.  
Does this hurt?  
Where are you feeling pain?  
You need stitches.  
You will be fine.  
You need surgery.  
You need to see the doctor.  
I will take your blood pressure now.  
We need a blood sample.  
Follow me.

### Admitting

Do you have a health insurance card?  
Who should we contact in an emergency?  
Do you have any children?  
How much will this cost?  
How long will I have to stay here?  
This will take five more minutes.  
Please be patient.

### Surgery

I am your anesthesiologist.  
This will make you sleepy.  
You will not feel any pain.  
We will fix your arm/leg/foot/ etc.  
I am scared.  
My heart is beating fast.  
Please say again in a different way.

### Part III: The Doctor's Office

48 pages

#### Reception

Fill out these forms.  
I will help you.  
Your Co-payment is \_\_\_\_\_.  
You need to come back next week.  
Call the office tomorrow.  
We need a referral form.  
Do you have a pen?  
Can you fax this for me?

#### The Doctor

Please take off your clothes.  
I will test your pulse rate.  
You need medication.  
I will test your heart.  
You need to lose weight.  
You are fine.  
You are ill.  
Here is your prescription.  
Take your medicine \_\_\_\_\_.

#### The Body

##### Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat & Head

I can't see.  
Can you read that?  
I can't hear you.  
Can you feel that?  
Say "Ah!"  
My throat is sore.  
I have a headache.  
I will look up your nose now.

##### Torso

I am testing your breathing.  
You have a genital infection.  
I will examine your breasts.  
You need a prostate examination.  
You need a mammogram.  
I found a lump in my breast.

##### Arms

My elbow is sore.  
Can you bend this finger?  
My shoulder won't move.  
Can you flex your bicep?

Legs

I will test your knee reflex.  
My ankle is broken.  
You have a groin pull.  
You need to put ice on that.  
My bruise is not healing.  
My hip was broken before.  
Your veins are fine.  
I have a cyst on my foot.  
My heels hurt.

**Part IV: The Lab**

**48 pages**

We need a urine sample.  
We will test your blood for HIV/AIDS.  
This is the X-Ray machine to look at your bones.  
This is an MRI machine to look at your soft tissue.  
We will contact you later with your results.  
This will pinch a little bit.  
Don't worry.  
I am cold.  
I am uncomfortable.  
I don't like that.  
You are fine.  
You need to see your doctor.  
Please put this on.

**Appendices (Fold-Out Sections For Reference?)**

**8 pages**