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New FCC Rule Makes Closed Caption Settings Easier to Find

The Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH) is sharing information about a new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirement designed to make closed caption settings easier to find and use.

Beginning August 17, 2026, many newly manufactured video devices will be required to provide quicker access to closed caption settings, reducing the number of steps users must take to turn captions on or adjust their preferences.

If you purchase a television, cable or satellite set-top box, smartphone, tablet, or computer manufactured on or after August 17, 2026, you should be able to locate caption settings more easily without searching through multiple menus.

The new requirement is intended to improve accessibility for people who are Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, late-deafened, or anyone who relies on captions to access television and video programming.

Devices covered by the rule

The requirement applies to many devices that receive or display television and video programming, including:

- Televisions
- Cable and satellite set-top boxes
- Smartphones
- Tablets
- Computers

Devices not covered by the rule

The requirement does not apply to:

- Third-party streaming applications
- Display-only monitors
- Professional or commercial equipment
- Devices manufactured before August 17, 2026

Why this matters

Captions provide access to news, emergency information, education, entertainment, and everyday communication. Making caption settings easier to locate means less time navigating menus and faster access to the content people want and need.

The requirement is part of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA), which was enacted to improve access to modern communications technologies for people with disabilities.

For additional information, please refer to [47 CFR § 79.103, Closed Caption Decoder and Display Requirements for Apparatus](#), or [visit the FCC website](#).

This information is provided as a public service by the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH).