

Switched at Birth

By: Lisa Goodman

I have been exploring other channels then just my usuals and found myself on Freeform f/k/a ABC Family lately and I have been seeing commercials for a show called *Switched at Birth*. Disclaimer: I have yet to see an episode so I have no idea if the show is good. But has been around since 2011- probably evident that it is a good show.

You're probably wondering where my intrigue stems from since I have only seen commercials. Well, from the looks of the commercials, one of the main characters and some of the other characters communicate in American sign language. As you may know, many of the cases we litigate involve effective communication for our deaf clients.

After some research about the show, according to Freeform, *Switched at Birth* is the first mainstream television series to have multiple deaf and hard-of-hearing series regulars and scenes shot entirely in American Sign Language (ASL). The show is a one-hour scripted drama, set in the Kansas City metropolitan area, and revolves around two teenagers who were switched at birth and grew up in very different environments: one in an affluent suburb, and the other in working-class areas.

While I cannot say one way or another whether the show does a good job portraying these deaf characters, I like when a show gives people the opportunity to learn about something they may never have had the opportunity to learn about in their everyday lives. I plan to check this show out, you should too.