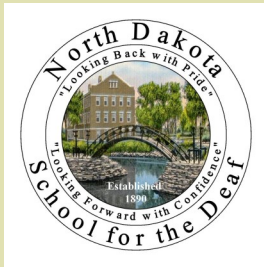


NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF RESOURCE CENTER FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Providing programs and services for
deaf and hard of hearing citizens of all
ages in North Dakota since 1890



A Division of the
ND Department of Public Instruction,
Kirsten Baesler, Superintendent

NDSB/RCDHH does not discriminate on the
basis of race, color, national origin,
sex, age or disability in employment or
provision of services.

Statewide
Outreach
Services

2.28.17

NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF RESOURCE CENTER FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

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“Sign language interpreters provide accessibility for Americans who are deaf. Foreign language interpreters interpret for those who have not yet learned English. While learning English is a choice for them, being deaf is not.” -www.deafexpressions.com

The federally mandated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 prohibits discrimination against people who are disabled. Accessibility for a person in a wheelchair is widened doors, lowered water fountains and ramps. For a person who is deaf, accessibility is defined as *effective communication*.

- Title I of the ADA addresses the provision of interpreters in the area of employment.
- Title II deals addresses providing interpreters for state and local government agencies. Programs, services and activities.
- Title III of the ADA addresses public accommodations and defines them as facilities, operated by a private entity, whose operations affect commerce and include the following categories:
 - Hospitals, doctors’ offices and health care facilities including nursing homes and assisted living facilities and pharmacies
 - Police stations, law offices and courtrooms
 - Public schools, college and universities
 - Restaurants, bars, hotels
 - Theaters, exhibit halls and museums
 - Most places that provide services to the public

Professional Sign Language Interpreting

NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF RESOURCE CENTER FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

“Looking back with pride;
Looking forward with confidence”

Promoting commitment to the pursuit
of excellence in the practice of
professional sign language
interpreting for deaf, hard of hearing
and hearing citizens of North Dakota.



Phone: 701-665-4400
Toll Free: 1-800-887-2980

About Sign Language Interpreting

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 mandates that all public and private agencies that provide services to the general public, and all employers with 15 or more employees, must be accessible to all people regardless of disability. For people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, this means that communication must be accessible. Providing a sign language interpreter allows deaf or hard of hearing individuals and hearing individuals to communicate clearly and concisely, saves time, and reduces confusion, liability and frustration for all involved.

Typical Settings for Interpreting

Always ask the deaf person if an interpreter is needed by writing the question on paper as he or she can best judge whether or not a particular topic of communication can be followed through writing, lip-reading or sign language interpreting. This decision depends on the length of discussion, terminology involved, the action that must be taken or the severity of the decisions made by all parties. The following are some settings which typically require the services of a professional sign language interpreter:

- Medical, dental and eye appointments
- Legal matters
- Local, state and federal government agencies
- Educational settings and programs
- Business appointments
- Employment-related meetings
- Public functions: forums, performances
- Special occasions: religious ceremonies, social functions

Hiring a Qualified Interpreter

After determining that an interpreter will be needed, how can one be found? The following ideas may help in your search.

- There are two ways to hire interpreters — direct hiring or using an interpreter referral agency.
 - ◆ Using an interpreter referral agency will likely be more expensive; however, the agency is responsible to make the contact, hire the interpreter and negotiate billing. The agency can also validate the interpreter's skill level and ethics.
 - ◆ You may negotiate rates for services when hiring an interpreter yourself. However, you may have to contact several interpreters before you find one that is available. The NDSD/RCDHH website lists certified interpreters in your area at: www.nd.gov/ndsd/ You can also search the site for local referral agencies.
- The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (www.rid.org) allows you to search for certified interpreters by state or zip code.
- When hiring an interpreter, ask to see his/her certification which indicates the interpreter has successfully passed appropriate performance tests and has skills required to use English and American

Sign Language and have knowledge of hearing and deaf culture. The interpreter should also be familiar with ethical standards and practices of the interpreting profession. Valid certification in ND may be in one or both of the following national forms:

- ◆ RID (Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf) includes MCSC, CSC, CI, CT, IC, TC, RSC or NIC, NIC Advanced or NIC Master.
- ◆ NAD (National Association of the Deaf) includes Level 3 (Generalist), Level 4 (Advanced) or Level 5 (Master).

Using Interpreters Effectively

- Avoid directing questions to the interpreter while the interpreter is working
- Do not use the interpreter as a human model
- Respect interpreter break times, interpreting is physically and mentally taxing
- Address the deaf person directly and avoid using "Tell him, ask her" phrases
- Share notes, outlines or handouts with the interpreter in advance, when possible, so he/she may be well prepared for the assignment