

## When do I need an interpreter?

Individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing have the right to access qualified sign language interpreters. In many cases failure to provide a sign language interpreter can result in a misunderstanding of the subject matter and lawsuits, mistrials, and misrepresentation have occurred.

Settings where interpreters are required as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) include:

- Medical & Dental Appointments
- Legal Appointments
- K-12 Education
- Post Secondary Education
- Vocational Trainings and Interviews
- Theatrical Performances
- Mental Health Services
- Social Services
- And Many More!



<http://www.SignForLife.com>

CONTACT A REPRESENTATIVE TODAY

SIGN FOR LIFE INTERPRETING

8718 N.E. 31st Court | Vancouver, WA. 98665

Phone: (360) 241-5016 | Email: [help@signforlife.com](mailto:help@signforlife.com)



Interpreting | Training | Advocating

# SIGN FOR LIFE

INTERPRETING AGENCY

## A Practical Guide To



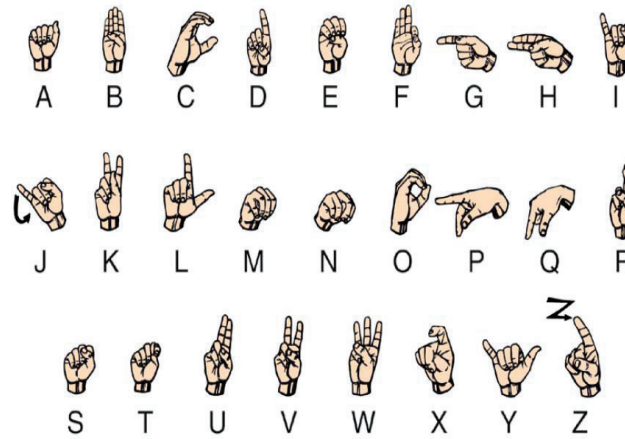
## Working with Deaf Clients

Vancouver | Longview | Portland | Gresham

## COMMUNICATION principles

Deaf and hard of hearing people communicate in many different ways, depending on several factors. Some individuals can be understood more than others due to these factors and considerations.

- ▶ Age at which deafness began;
- ▶ Type and extent of deafness;
- ▶ Language and speech abilities;
- ▶ Educational background; and
- ▶ Life experiences.



## Questions?

**We are here to help.**

## FREQUENT questions

### WHAT IS THE INTERPRETERS ROLE?

An Interpreter is strictly a “Communication Facilitator”. Their responsibility is to accurately relay communication between two parties. Interpreters sign everything that is said and say everything that is signed. Interpreters are governed by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Code of Professional Conduct. It is the obligation of every interpreter to exercise judgment, confidentiality, linguistic and professional competence, impartiality, professional growth and development, ethical business practices, and the rights of participants in interpreted situations to informed choice.

### WHEN SHOULD I GET AN INTERPRETER?

Interpreters facilitate communication between hearing and Deaf individuals in a variety of settings such as medical and dental appointments, social services, meetings and other group situations or when discussing detailed, lengthy, or complex information. When a client requests that you provide a Sign Language Interpreter you must consider the client’s right to an interpreter, as stated in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It is the responsibility of the service provider to cover the Interpreters fees, unless otherwise covered by DSHS approved entities.

### WHAT DETAILS DO I NEED TO PROVIDE?

- Date, time, location and expected length of the assignment;
- Type of situation (medical, dental, social services, educational, etc.);
- Names of interpreters with whom the Deaf individual prefers to work. Many individuals prefer to work with specific interpreters, based on their different skills and unique communication needs.
- Particular communication needs the individual has noted, e.g., American Sign Language (ASL). Others may prefer an oral interpreter. It is also important to consider that some deaf-blind individuals prefer a “tactile interpreter”.

### WHEN DO I NEED TWO INTERPRETERS?

If a meeting will last more than an hour and a half, it is recommended to have two interpreters. It is difficult to interpret for more than an hour and a half. If the meeting, class, or lecture will take longer, two interpreters will work on a rotating basis. Interpreters rotate every 15-20 minutes in order to remain fresh and provide effective, accurate communication.

## COMMUNICATION tips

- If a person is wearing a hearing aid, do not assume they can hear you.
- Before speaking, get the person’s attention by waving your hand or gently tapping on their shoulder.
- Use visual aids when possible, such as pointing to printed material.
- If the individual you are communicating with reads lips then face the person and do not turn away while speaking. Note that not all Deaf individuals can read lips.

- Minimize background noise and other distractions whenever possible.
- When writing notes with a variety of Deaf individuals who use sign language, you may notice that their written communication may appear distorted. This is due to the nature of their first language which is a visual language and does not easily translate into clear written English.
- When using an interpreter, look at and speak directly to the deaf person, not the interpreter.
- Do not use family members or children as interpreters. They may lack the vocabulary or the impartiality needed to interpret effectively.

[www.signforlife.com](http://www.signforlife.com)

Vancouver | Longview | Portland | Gresham

Sign For Life | (360) 241-5016 | [www.signforlife.com](http://www.signforlife.com)