



DeafHope

Sign Language Interpreters

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires that Deaf individuals have equal access to public services. Service providers, courts, police departments and hospitals are required to provide reasonable accommodations to Deaf clients. A major part of reasonable accommodations is qualified sign language interpreters. Service providers must always ask the Deaf client what accommodations they will need.

Interpreters usually work in teams of two for any meeting that lasts more than one hour. This is to prevent injury and to maximize quality of service that would be lost due to interpreter fatigue. In court proceedings, separate teams of interpreters would have to be used for all Deaf parties, including plaintiff, defendant and witnesses. This protects client confidentiality and prevents information from inadvertently being passed by the interpreter between parties. It also makes sure that interpreters are available for private conferences with attorneys. Interpreters used in court settings must also be specially certified for legal interpreting. The cost of qualified interpreters can be high – but the cost of missed information, misunderstandings, and limited access is almost always higher.

ASL interpreters are certified through a national professional organization called the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. It is crucial to utilize the services of a qualified, certified interpreter to ensure that the interpreter is complying with the Code of Ethics and strict confidentiality.

For more information, visit the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf website

www.rid.org

In particular, please review the **Code of Professional Conduct** by which certified interpreters are bound.

Interpreters can be hired through:

- Eaton Interpreting Services 916.721.3636
- Hands On Sign Language Services 800.900.9478