

# **Working with Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf Blind**

Presented by:

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Service Center of the Deaf  
and Hard of Hearing

# Introduction

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# Diversity in Population

- Deaf
- Hard of Hearing
- Deaf Blind
- Late Deafened
- Cochlear Implant

# Deaf and Hard of Hearing Population

- **Various Communication Modes**
  - ASL (American Sign Language)
  - PSE (Pidgin Sign Language)
  - SEE (Signed Exact English)
  - Oralism
  - MSL (Mexican Sign Language)
  - Others
    - home signs
    - Cued speech

# Deaf and Hard of Hearing Population continued...

- **Background**
  - Family
  - Culture
  - Language
- **Education**
  - Residential Schools
  - Mainstreamed Setting
    - Mainstreamed with or without interpreters
    - Deaf Education classrooms
  - Oral Schools

# Deaf and Hard of Hearing Population continued...

- **Forms of Communication**

- Lip reading
- Written
- Visual Gestural
  - Foreign with no English skills
- Interpreter (client's choice)
- Assistive Listening Device System
- Check with client to find out what their preferred method of communication is and respect that.

# Deaf Blind Population

- **Various Visual Impairments**
  - Usher Syndrome, Macular Degeneration, Optic Atrophy, etc.
- **Various Communication Modes**
  - Platform interpreting
  - Close up interpreting
  - Oral interpreting
  - Tactile Signing
- **SSP (Support Service Provider) and DB Interpreter**
  - SSP Pilot Program with AADB (American Association of the Deaf Blind)
  - AADB is working with RID to establish national certification for DB interpreters

# Cultural Customs

- **Nodding does not mean yes**
- **Eye contact is very important**
- **Some words take many signs, some signs take many words**
- **English is usually a second language, do not rely on notes**
- **Physical contact**
- **For Deaf Blind population, avoid strong scented perfume and deodorant**
- **Setting – make sure there's no bright lights or windows in background.**



# Check for Understanding

- **Paraphrase**
- **Ask open ended questions**
- **Use visual referents**
- **Role play when appropriate**

# Interpretation Process

- **Simultaneous vs consecutive interpretation**
- **Time Lag**
- **You will want to develop a signal like the “halt” hand gesture so the Deaf person testifying knows when you want to object. Interpreters have to keep talking until the Deaf person’s signing stops.**
- **Types of certification**
- **Code of ethics**
- **Requesting for interpreters**
- **Interpreter’s role**
- **Settings**

# Challenges

- Some Deaf people do not know their legal rights to interpreters
- Sometimes we get complaints that doctors, lawyers and police will not pay for interpreters
- Shortages of interpreters in some areas (rural) requires advance request for sign language interpreters

# Deaf Interpreters

- Certified (CDI)
- Used mainly for clients that have minimal language skills.
- We need to educate courts about CDI and educate Deaf population of their right to request for one.
- Relay interpreting
- Role play demonstration