

# Interpreters

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Interpreters are trained professionals who provide the necessary communication link between hearing people and people with a hearing loss. Interpreters benefit all parties involved with the conversation.

Interpreters are *not* simply individuals who know sign language. They generally receive training from an accredited interpreter training program and are certified by either the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) or the National Association of the Deaf (NAD). A *signer* is often someone who has only taken sign language classes. A *signer* is *not* an interpreter.

## Sign language interpreters

- Interpret the signed message into spoken English for the hearing people
- Interpret the spoken message into American Sign Language (ASL) for people with a hearing loss, or
- Transliterate the spoken message into signs using English word order for persons with a hearing loss

## Interpreters for deafblind individuals

- Interpret for the deafblind individual through the sense of touch or at close visual range
- Interpret visual and acoustic environmental information

## Oral interpreters

- Facilitate communication between hearing people and people with a hearing loss who rely heavily on speechreading for communication
- Enunciate, repeat or rephrase a speaker's remarks using natural lip movements and gestures
- Choose words that are more visible on the lips

## Cued Speech Transliterators

- Transliterate the spoken message into Cued American English (CAE), using the system of Cued Speech for persons with hearing loss
- Transliterate the cued message into spoken English for hearing persons

Sign Language Interpreters follow a code of ethics established by RID or NAD. Cued Language Transliterators follow a code of conduct and are certified by the Testing, Evaluation and Certification (TEC) Unit. Interpreters and transliterators convey the intent, feeling and content of the messages to all the people involved. All information is kept confidential and personal opinions are not interjected.

*This information is available in other forms to people with disabilities by calling 651-431-2351 voice, 888-206-6501 TTY; for speech-to-speech telephone re-voice services, call 1-877-627-3848.*



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

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## Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division

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