

Sign Language Interpreting Services



Deaf Independent Living Association, Inc. (DILA) offers an interpreter referral service to help community members secure sign language interpretation and transliteration services for their upcoming event.

Sign language interpreters bridge the communication barrier between deaf and hearing individuals. In most cases, the interpreter translates spoken English into American Sign Language (ASL) for deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals. The interpreter then translates their response back into English for the hearing party.

For individuals with complex communication needs, such as minimal language skills or a disability that affects visual comprehension, we offer relay interpreters. In these situations, the relay interpreter acts as a cultural guide. He or she works alongside a traditional sign language interpreter to ensure accurate, efficient communication between all parties.

Equal Communication Access

Providing sign language interpreters is one way to ensure communication accessibility for deaf individuals and meet key State and federal requirements including:

- ◆ Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973—Prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.
- ◆ The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1975 (PL 94-142)—Requires certain employers and schools to provide interpreters in some situations.
- ◆ Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)—Government entities, most private employers, and places of public accommodations are required to provide qualified sign language interpreters or auxiliary aids to ensure effective communication.

Network of Qualified Interpreters

As an organizational member of the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), DILA draws from a network of experienced, highly skilled interpreters. Each adheres to a strict code of professional conduct and is specially



trained to handle a variety of interpreting situations. The most commonly requested settings include:

- ◆ Physician's office or hospital visits
- ◆ Schools or universities
- ◆ Legal proceedings
- ◆ Artistic performances
- ◆ Religious ceremonies
- ◆ Social services meetings
- ◆ Conferences, conventions and presentations
- ◆ Business, government and industry gatherings
- ◆ Rehabilitation/vocational training
- ◆ Mental health and addiction counseling

How to Request an Interpreter

To request an interpreter, call 410-546-1745 (voice/TTY) or 443-365-2645 VP. Requestors are required to complete and sign two agreements prior to services being provided.

Once your request is received, DILA's interpreter coordinator will identify, schedule and confirm one or more qualified interpreters for your event based on the information provided. To ensure an interpreter is available, please contact us at least two weeks prior to your event date.

To Learn More....

For more information on our sign language interpreting services or fees, call 410-546-1745 (voice/TTY), 443-365-2645 VP or email dila@dila.org.

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