

## Qualified Interpreters

### The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Requirements for Reasonable Accommodations

The ADA mandates that equal communication access is provided for Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals to allow full participation in areas of employment, public services and programs, places of public accommodation and telecommunication.

Reasonable accommodations may include a **qualified** interpreter for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons utilizing American Sign Language.

### West Virginia Legislative Rule

The legislative rule establishing the West Virginia Registry of Interpreters, CSR 192 - 3, was created to set a standard for the services offered to Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals, as well as the profession of interpreting in our state.

### What is the difference between a qualified interpreter and a certified interpreter?

A *certified* interpreter has received their national certification. A *qualified* interpreter has provided verification of their skill level, through certification or screening, and has met all other criteria set forth by the state of West Virginia.



## WVRI Qualifications

### What makes an interpreter qualified?

To be on the registry, an interpreter must hold one of the following qualifications:

#### NATIONALLY CERTIFIED



#### An interpreter who:

- holds a National certification level as recognized by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID).

#### STATE QUALIFIED



#### An interpreter who:

- holds a current valid credential from another state.
- The most utilized state credential in WV is the Virginia Quality Assurance Screening (VQAS).

#### QUALIFIED K-12 EDUCATIONAL\*



#### An interpreter who:

- has achieved a minimum score of 3.0 on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA).
- Meets all standards set forth by the West Virginia Department of Education

\*Qualified educational interpreters are qualified for educational settings only. Other credentials must be obtained to work in community settings.

**Aside from holding one or more of the qualifications listed above, WV qualified interpreters are required to hold membership with the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), and are upheld to RID's Code of Professional Conduct.**

## Applying for WVRI

### How do I apply for WVRI?

Once you have received a passing score for a qualification exam, you may begin the process for applying to the registry. You are required to send the following documents to the WVCDHH:

- Completed application found on the WVCDHH website
- Clear copy of valid Driver's License
- Clear copy of all current qualifications
- Clear copy of valid RID membership card
- Professional resume, highlighting experience
- Application fee of \$25 (certified check or money order)

### How often do I have to renew with WVRI?

You must renew your WVRI membership every three years. If you renew before your WVRI membership lapses, review the application to determine any changes or additions in credentials or information and send updated copies of all required documentation. You are not required to send a new application or processing fee *unless your WVRI membership has lapsed.*

### Who must register?

All interpreters working in the state must register, unless interpreting:

- In religious settings only
- Life-threatening emergency situations
- As a practicum or supervised internship
- On a volunteer basis with no monetary compensation
- **(Non-WV residents only)** no more than ten days per calendar year

### What if I prefer not to be listed?

Many qualified interpreters currently work full-time, and prefer not to be listed for public viewing. You have the option as to whether or not you would like to be publicly listed. Hiring entities are always encouraged to contact WVCDHH if they question an interpreter's qualifications. WVCDHH is able to confirm privately listed interpreters, though will not distribute their contact information.

### What if I move or change my name?

You are able to make these changes with WVRI by providing the appropriate documentation. Please ensure that your contact info is always up to date.

### How do hiring entities locate interpreters?

Hiring entities can view the interpreter directory on the WVCDHH website. This list is updated as needed to ensure that the most current version is available.

### What if I get a call from a Deaf consumer, rather than the hiring entity?

The directory is publicly listed. If you receive a call from a Deaf consumer who is not the hiring entity, it is best to remind them that the request must come from hiring entity.

### If a Deaf consumer requests me specifically, does the hiring entity have to comply?

Deaf consumers have the right to request specific interpreters. Although hiring entities should take requests into consideration, they are not required to comply, so long as the hired interpreter is qualified.



*The mission of the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (WVCDHH) is to advocate for, develop, and coordinate public policies, regulations, and programs to assure full and equal opportunity for persons who are deaf and hard of hearing in West Virginia.*

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*WVCDHH is an office within the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources*

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# A Guide for Professional Interpreters in the State of West Virginia



Information provided by the

**West Virginia  
Commission for the Deaf  
and Hard of Hearing**