

WV Interpreter Directory

How do I find a registered interpreter in West Virginia?

- WVCDHH maintains a statewide directory, listing only interpreters recognized as qualified by the state of West Virginia.
- Because WVRI members are given the option to be listed privately, contact the Commission to ensure that your interpreter is in fact registered.
- A regularly maintained directory is available online at www.dhhr.wv.gov/cdhh. Printed copies are available upon request.

Who is responsible for hiring and paying an interpreter for services?

- The entity providing the services to a D/HH individual is required to hire and pay for the interpreting services.

What if the D/HH consumer requests an interpreter that is not registered?

- Hiring entities may hire an unregistered interpreter at the **specific request of the D/HH consumer**.
- Hiring entities are **not** required to satisfy requests for **specific** interpreters. Often times in this situation, a hiring entity would instead choose a registered interpreter to ensure that adequate communication can be facilitated.

When should I use a Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI)?

- Hiring a CDI is an extremely beneficial addition to interpreting situations in which the D/HH consumer is not fluent in ASL or English. Contact WVCDHH for guidance.

Is Video Relay Interpreting (VRI) an option?

- VRI is a reasonable accommodation for communication access. However, it may not be suitable for all situations. Consult with WVCDHH for more information.

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 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.

If you have any questions regarding interpreters, please contact WVCDHH.

Utilizing an Interpreter

If you are new to hiring an American Sign Language interpreter, here are a few tips to keep in mind:

- **Always use the West Virginia Registry of Interpreters to secure an interpreter.** This will ensure that you are in compliance with Title 192 CSR 3.
- **Interpreter rates will vary.** Interpreters set their own competitive rates. Fees may vary by level of qualification, experience and education level.
- Interpreters may set their own policy for minimum invoicing for assignment length and cancellations.
- **Being qualified does not mean that an interpreter is suitable for all settings. High risk settings, such as legal, may require a more highly qualified interpreter.** For guidance ensuring that an interpreter holds an appropriate skill level for a specific setting, contact WVCDHH.
- Hiring entities bear the responsibility of assuring that the interpreter is qualified. All qualified interpreters have a WVRI card for verification.
- Ask the interpreter and the Deaf or Hard of Hearing consumer on how to best place the interpreter for successful communication facilitation.
- When working with a Deaf or Hard of Hearing individual that utilizes an interpreter, always face and speak to the individual—not the interpreter.
- **As the hiring entity, you also have rights. If you feel as though an interpreter acted unethically, please consult with WVCDHH.** To review the ethical standards that WV interpreters are held to, please see the RID's Code of Professional Conduct found at: www.rid.org/ethics/code-of-professional-conduct.

WV Requirements

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 (D/HH) individuals to allow full participation in areas of employment, public services and programs, places of public accommodation and telecommunication.

- Not all Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals require or prefer the use of an interpreter.
- If an individual requests an interpreter, the interpreter must be provided at the expense of the place of public accommodation/service—**not at the expense of the individual making the request.**

All American Sign Language interpreters working with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing are required to be registered with the West Virginia Registry of Interpreters, per WV Title 192 CSR 3.

Why is this the standard for WV?

Requiring that all ASL interpreters are registered with WVRI ensures that the service provided to Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals meets a certain standard of skill level and professionalism. By ensuring that all interpreters are registered, hiring entities can rest assured knowing that interpreters are proficient in the skill required for bilingual, bicultural interpretation, and are held to an ethical code.



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



A Guide to Hiring Qualified Sign Language Interpreters in West Virginia

Information provided by the

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