How do I know whether they’re qualified?
Ensuring effective communication through the provision of qualified interpreters will begin at 2 pm EST.

While you are waiting, take a moment to become a part of the nationwide celebration and recommitment to the ADA. Using your smart phone, tablet, or computer and visit ADAanniversary.org
Join others in their commitment for another 25 years... and beyond!

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Sign Language Interpreter

- Video Sign Language Interpreter is available for this session
- To access the Sign language Choose “Video” from the Audio and Video Panel. This will open a video window.
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Ensuring effective communication through the provision of qualified interpreters

Presented by:

Mid-Atlantic ADA Center

Today’s presenter:

Julie Anne Schafer
How do I know whether they’re qualified?

Ensuring effective communication through the provision of qualified interpreters

Who am I and why are we here?
What is RID’s role, anyway?

- To promote excellence in the delivery of interpretation and transliteration services between and among people who use signed and spoken languages.

- To encourage the growth of the profession through the establishment of a national standard for qualified sign language interpreters and transliterators.

Objectives

- Understand the difference between “certified” and “qualified” interpreters.
- List factors integral to determining an interpreters qualifications.
- Explain the role of Certified Deaf Interpreters in providing effective communication.
- Identify key considerations when working with professional interpreter referral agencies.
In the Matter of
Certified vs. Qualified
Graphic depicts ASL alphabet and the word "qualified" followed by a question mark.

Certified?

USDA Organic
Better Business Bureau accredited business
Certified nursing assistant
Certified Public Accountant
Fair trade certified
Certified mail receipt
Ethical Practices System

Finding:

Certified
AND
Qualified
Check list for interpreter qualifications

- Generalist and specialty certifications?
- Pre and post certification interpreting experience?
- Specialized training?
- Mentorship experience?
Certified Deaf Interpreters

When and how to use these interpreting professionals

What is a CDI?

- The Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) is a nationally certified interpreter who is deaf or hard of hearing and has:
  - Specialized training and/or experience in the use of gesture, mime, props, drawings and other tools to enhance communication
  - Knowledge and understanding of deafness, the Deaf community, and Deaf culture.
  - Native or near-native fluency in American Sign Language.
Misconceptions

- Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDIs) are used only when the hearing interpreter is not skilled enough to do the job.

- CDIs are used only when the Deaf consumer has very specialized needs. Examples: Mental health, minimal language, etc.

- CDIs are used in limited environments like mental health and legal settings.

Benefits of Using a CDI

- Optimal understanding by all parties

- Efficient use of time and resources

- Clarification of linguistic and/or cultural confusion and misunderstanding(s)

- Arrival at a clear conclusion in the interpreting situation
When should I use a CDI?

- One is requested by the Deaf consumer, Hearing interpreter, or other party to the communication.
- Any setting, including medical, mental health, legal, educational, depending on what is needed for effective communication.
- Any individual, including those who are deafblind, have minimal language, use a foreign sign language, depending on what is needed for effective communication.

A Quick Word About Sign Language Interpreter Referral Agencies
Misconceptions

- All interpreter referral agencies assess and select the most appropriate interpreter for the assignment.
- All interpreter referral agencies are familiar with the sign language interpreting profession and the Deaf community.
- If I use an interpreter referral agency, I’m assured a qualified interpreter.

How to effectively utilize the services of a referral agency:

- Provide as much information as possible, such as:
  - What are the Deaf consumers’ language needs?
  - What is the setting? Are there specialized terms or vocabulary necessary?
  - What is the format? (Podium, interactive, large group, one-on-one)
  - Are there prep materials available? (Speech notes, PowerPoint presentation, etc.)
  - Does the assignment require specific attire? (close-toed shoes, slacks, etc.)
Recap

- Understand the difference between “certified” and “qualified” interpreters.
- List factors integral to determining an interpreters qualifications.
- Explain the role of Certified Deaf Interpreters in providing effective communication.
- Identify key considerations when working with professional interpreter referral agencies.
Connect with me!

Julie Anne Schafer
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  – Mid-Atlantic ADA Center
    • 1-800-949-4232 V/TTY (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV)
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