

Sign Language Interpreter Specialist

I. KIND AND LEVEL OF WORK

Professional sign language work; second of 3 classes within the Sign Language series. Under general supervision, provides an impartial and accurate interpretation or transliteration of information into American Sign Language, Sign Systems and Spoken English for hearing, hard of hearing and deafblind communities. Position provides expertise and technical assistance to agencies and interpreters/interveners regarding accessibility for all clientele. Performs related work as required.

II. DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The Sign Language Interpreter Specialist job class differs from the Sign Language Interpreter job class because this level may monitor and evaluate interpreting services. This job class may also advise or provide assistance regarding interpreting services. This job class may also recommend or develop relationships with other outreach services and agencies to ensure the accurate interpretation or transliteration of information into American Sign Language, Sign Systems or Spoken English. This job class will not be responsible for providing lead work direction or coordinating and organizing the work of other members of an agency or non-state workers.

III. EXAMPLES OF WORK/DUTIES

(A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)

- Accurately and impartially interprets or transliterates critical information in crisis intervention, legal, medical, social services, mental health, financial, education, employment and legislative settings for hearing, deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind individuals to provide equal access to information and protect against harm and discrimination of clientele.
- Advises and proposes technical assistance to area agencies to establish and/or enhance their standard of accessibility regarding interpreting services for clientele and/or employees to bring the agency into compliance with State and Federal Legislation.
- Identifies critical barriers to interpreting services and design individualized solutions to address deficiencies to meet certification and qualifications mandated by State and Federal Legislation and to avoid potential harm to and discrimination against clientele.
- Provides intake and orientation to deaf/hard of hearing/deafblind people applying for services by assessing presenting needs, conducting interviews, explaining services, gathering information, providing case monitoring, advocacy, and follow-up.
- Performs job placement activities so employment opportunities are maximized for deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind clients by teaching job seeking skills, assisting clients with their job search, assessing employment sites for accommodations and support, providing job coaching.
- Develop strategies and conducts outreach efforts for agency by preparing and conducting presentations to external facilities and agencies; identifying and establishing liaisons with

referral sources; developing and implementing strategies to address and enable service to underserved populations.

- Translates approximate or exact message of speaker into specified language, using sign language systems for people who are deaf or hard of hearing Translates responses from second language to first.

IV. KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- *Fields of interpretation and transliteration which leads to ethical, accurate and confidential interpreting service for all clientele.*
- *Superior level American Sign Language, Signed English, spoken and written English to avoid severe legal, ethical and financial consequences resulting from misinterpretations or misrepresentation of any clientele information.*
- *Language used in numerous arenas including but not limited to legislative, crisis intervention, legal, medical, social services, mental health, financial management, and employment.*
- *Local, state and global socio-economic and political information in order to render faithful and accurate interpretations.*
- *Relevant Federal and State laws, (ADA, 504, MN Human Rights, DHH Services Act) Deaf culture, historical and current trends in the education, employment and lives of deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind people.*

Skill in:

- *Forecast, synthesize and extract meaning in another's language, spoken or signed, and to produce an equivalent message into an intelligible form for all clientele.*
- *Utilizing video platforms for interpretation and related work.*

Ability to:

- *Apply the principles from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Code of Professional Conduct to act ethically and in-line with these principles. Interpret using ASL in a variety of settings, including educational activities, events, legislative sessions, crisis situations, public and political events, and administration meetings in the agency.*
- *Function as an influential and contributing team member to meet the mission of the agency.*
- *Maintain an open and productive dialogue with other Interpreter Coordinators.*
- *Establish and promote a professional rapport with interpreters from the assigned region.*
- *Effectively communicate with all people from diverse backgrounds and cultures.*
- *Operate and assist clients and with educational software or assistive technology or software that provides an accommodation to their learning.*

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION/STATUTORY REFERENCES

National Interpreter Certification, Certified Deaf Interpreter or a legacy certification recognized by the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID).

SPECIAL WORK CONDITIONS

REFERENCES

Former title(s):

REVISION HISTORY

Established 12/1998

Revised 3/2000, 10/2016, 3/2023