

## INTERPRETER FOR THE DEAF

**Certifying Authority** Kathryn Baumann-Reese  
Division of Deaf Services  
Iowa Department of Human Rights  
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**Legal Authority** Code of Iowa, Chapters 622B and 804.31

**Job Description** Interpreters translate spoken words into sign language for a deaf or hard-of-hearing person and translate sign language for a deaf or hard-of-hearing person into spoken or written words for someone who does not understand sign language. An interpreter may work for a deaf person, a hard-of-hearing and/or hearing person, an entity that provides services for deaf or hard-of-hearing people, or an entity that is obligated to provide communication access under state or federal law. (Possibilities include hospitals, school systems, television stations, or candidates for elective office, etc.)  
The Deaf Services Commission of Iowa (DSCI) has a current list of interpreters that are available to provide services in Iowa.

**Education & Experience Required** Certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID) is required for employment at the Deaf Services Commission of Iowa and the commission promotes it as a credential of competence showing ability to function as an interpreter. DSCI requires an application be submitted to be listed with the agency to provide interpreting services. Interpreters who hold certification from RID or from the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) are also required to submit verification of their certification status.

The above entities promote certification to cover the interpreter's legal liability and ability to function in settings that require it. An interpreter must have certification from RID to provide services 1) at the time of arrest of a deaf person, or 2) during any legal proceeding, according to the Iowa Code Chapters above.

**Continuing Education** Interpreters certified by RID are required to earn nine continuing education units or 90 hours of continuing education during a three-year period in order to maintain certification. NAD also requires continuing education units.

**Examination** RID's certification process consists of a 125-question written test and a performance test. There are two performance tests, both of which are done on videotape and lead to full independent generalist certificates. The Certificate of Transliteration (CT) is awarded to candidates who successfully demonstrate their ability to transliterate between signed English and spoken English in both sign-to-voice and voice-to-sign. The Certificate of Interpretation (CI) is awarded to candidates who successfully demonstrate their ability to interpret between American Sign Language and spoken English in both sign-to-voice and voice-to-sign.

Certification is also available for Oral and Deaf (relay) Interpreters. The exams are scheduled regularly throughout the United States.

**Fees** There are no fees to be on the DSCI list of interpreters. RID, Inc. and NAD, Inc. charge fees for their tests.

**SOC Code, Title, & Avg. Hourly Wage** 27-3091 – Interpreters and Translators (\$11.59)

**Number of Licenses Issued** Total number of licenses active as of December 31,  
2001: N/A  
2000: N/A

**For Additional Information** Deaf Services Division of Iowa  
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321 E 12<sup>th</sup> St  
Des Moines IA 50319  
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