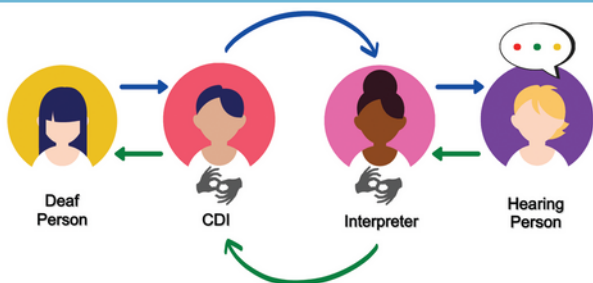


The Benefits of Certified/Qualified/Deaf Interpreters (C/Q/DIs)



Fact#1: C/DIs fill a huge language gap between hearing interpreters and Deaf clients with marginal English/signing skills because they are native users of American Sign Language and can easily adapt to different sign languages and gestures. They also catch subtle nuances that hearing interpreters may miss.

Fact#2: Many Deaf individuals will instantly connect to a C/DI because of a shared Deaf identity and/or language. In complex, challenging, and emotionally charged situations, this rapport is especially crucial.

Fact#3: There are five lingual skills for Deaf people to be accommodated with C/DI: Multilingual, Bilingual, Monolingual, Semilingual, and Alingual.

Fact#4: C/DIs prefer to meet with Deaf client prior to the appointment or session to assess the client's communication needs. This will make the appointment or session go more smoothly.

Fact#5: C/DIs' work may include gestures, drawings, calendars, and different props to illustrate what is being communicated to the Deaf client. They also take more time in communicating concepts.

Fact#6: C/DIs use their formative experience plus formal training to adjust their language use to match the Deaf person's communication system.

Fact#7: Foreign-born people rely heavily on non-verbal gestures/cues and C/DIs are uniquely qualified to convey messages in a manner that is understandable to them.

DOs and DON'Ts for use of C/DI

- DO use a C/DI if the appointment or session is life-altering, complex, and/or requires very personal or lengthy information/history from the Deaf person. You want to make sure the Deaf person is fully engaged in the process and makes all the decisions, not you.
- DO provide as much information about the appointment or session in advance as possible so the C/DI can be as prepared as possible.
- DO talk/make eye contact directly with the Deaf person.
- DO make sure your message is clear and concise, not jumbled or off track.
- DON'T mumble or over-enunciate words/signs.
- DON'T ask the interpreter to explain what the Deaf person is saying. Ask the Deaf person directly to clarify or repeat the information.
- DON'T look at other people or look around the room during the conversation.
- DON'T refer to the Deaf individual as a third person.

For more information, please contact:

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559-225-3382

559-375-0902 (Emergency & After Hours)

interpreting@dhhsc.org

559-225-3323 Voice

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Additional resource:

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