



### **What is a Qualified Sign Language Interpreter?**

A Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) is an individual who is Deaf and certified by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) as an interpreter. A Deaf Interpreter (DI) is an individual who is working toward becoming a CDI. In North Carolina to work as a community interpreter, both CDIs and DIs must be licensed by the North Carolina Interpreter and Transliterater Licensing Board. Generally, Deaf interpreters will team with hearing interpreters.

### **What specialized training and experience does a CDI/DI have?**

A CDI/DI has extensive knowledge and understanding of deafness, the Deaf community, and Deaf culture along with excellent communication skills. Because of these skills, a CDI/DI can bring added expertise to both routine and complex interpreting situations. A CDI/DI may also have specialized training and experience in the use of gesture, mime, props, drawings and other tools to enhance communication.

### **Why is a CDI/DI more effective?**

Deaf interpreters and the Deaf consumers they serve share a common language and culture which may lead to more effective communication and reduced misunderstandings.

Given their special training and experience, Deaf interpreters are particularly adept at accommodating a variety of communication needs found in the Deaf community, which may include individuals who are...

- From other countries using their sign language that is different from American Sign Language.
- Limited in their proficiency in American Sign Language.
- DeafBlind or have limited vision.
- In a situation where clear communication is critical, such as legal or psychiatric settings.
- Children, especially in sensitive or critical situations and dependent upon the age and language development of the child.
- Native signers that request a Deaf interpreter, especially during a crisis or traumatic situation.



## Where can you find a CDI/DI?

- Ask the person requesting the accommodation for their preferred interpreters or interpreter service agencies.
- Contact your local Interpreting Services Specialist at the NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for further guidance.
- The NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing maintains a directory of NC licensed interpreters and interpreting agencies, which can be found at this website: [www.ncdhhs.gov/dsdhh/directories.htm](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dsdhh/directories.htm)

Scan with your phone's camera to access the link.



## Who can assist me in finding a CDI/DI?

For assistance, contact the Interpreting Services Specialist at your local Regional Center with the NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We have seven Regional Centers throughout the state. Please contact the center that serves your county which can be found at this website: [www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/hearing-loss/regional-centers-for-the-deaf-hard-of-hearing](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/hearing-loss/regional-centers-for-the-deaf-hard-of-hearing)

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