

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

*Can't live with 'em ...
Can't live without 'em!*



SignOn

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A Sign Language Interpreting Resource, Inc.

FRUSTRATIONS experienced – recruiting, hiring, supervising

- Determining qualifications – I don't sign!
- Helping instructors accept interpreter in classroom
- Work ethic – showing up on time, leaving campus if a class has cancelled
- Securing "prep" materials

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SUCCESS experienced – recruiting, hiring, supervising

- Have a "lead interpreter" who helps with this
- Found local deaf service center helpful
- Using video remote interpreters
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SCREENING: what to look for

- Interpreting Skills
- Critical and ethical decision making
- Education – areas of knowledge competence
- Hours of availability and flexibility
- Reliability (references)
- Etc.



Screening: INTERPRETING SKILLS

- Certification??
- Ability to identify key points and critical detail and to accurately convey equivalent meaning between English and ASL



Screening: INTERPRETING SKILLS

- Range of skills
(ENGLISH ↔ PSE ↔ ASL)
- Clarity of speech/signs
 - discourse markers
 - grammatical accuracy
 - pausing/phrasing
 - cohesions
 - production of target language



Screening: EDUCATION & KNOWLEDGE COMPETENCE

- Level of familiarity with the course content being interpreted
- Strategies to “fill in the blanks”
- Areas of knowledge

INCOMPETENCE



Screening: CRITICAL THINKING & ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

- Able to recognize and respond to implied, as well as direct, communication
- Role, responsibilities, boundaries -- hierarchical structure of the institution
- Knowledge of legal responsibilities



Screening: AVAILABILITY

- Available days? Nights? Weekends?
- Able to go on field trips or join study groups?
- Required notice for cancellation of single class/student drops



Employment Practices

- Staff or contractors
- Supervision
- Certification maintenance
- Professional development
 - → Readiness for specific classes
 - → Specialized training



Resources

- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) www.rid.org
- State RID Chapter
Get contact information from National RID website or by searching "registry of interpreters for the deaf – state"



Resources

- Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT) www.cit.org
- Gallaudet University Regional Interpreter Education Center
<http://guriec.gallaudet.edu>



Resources

- SignOn: A Sign Language Interpreting Resource www.SignOnASL.com
- SignOn: Education and Research Center of Seattle www.ERCSeattle.org
- ASLeyeLEARN www.asleyelearn.com

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