



## INFORMATION SERIES

### Interpreter Training Resources

***I am interested in becoming an interpreter, but I need more American Sign Language training. What should I do?***

The most important first step towards becoming a sign language interpreter is achieving near-native fluency in American Sign Language (ASL). This requires at least two years of continuing ASL instruction and frequent contact with deaf people who use ASL by attending social events, volunteering in deaf organizations or interacting with deaf people in work or educational settings.

Interpreter training programs include in their curricula understanding and knowledge of ASL (applicable to sign language interpreting programs only), Deaf Culture, the complex process of interpretation from one language to another language, and the interpreter code of ethics, which embodies professional standards of integrity, impartiality and confidentiality. To become a skilled certified interpreter takes years of practice and training.

***Are there interpreter training programs in Rhode Island?***

Unfortunately RI does not currently have any interpreter training programs. However, there are programs in neighboring Massachusetts and Connecticut.

***Northeastern University***

American Sign Language Program  
405 Meserve Hall  
Boston, MA 02115  
617-373-3064 Voice  
617-373-3067 TTY  
617-373-3065 Fax

***Northern Essex***

***Community College***  
Sign Language Interpreter Program  
100 Ellitott Way  
Haverhill, MA 01830  
508-374-5899 Voice  
508-374-3611 TTY  
508-374-3723 Fax

***Clarke School for the Deaf***

Oral Interpreting Program  
Round Hill Road  
Northampton, MA 01060  
413-584-3450 V/TTY  
413-584-8273 Fax

***Northwest Connecticut Community College***

Career Education for the Deaf  
Park Place East  
Winsted, CT 06098  
860-738-6382 V/TTY

For a complete list of Interpreter Training programs across the United States, contact the RICDHH office.

***Is there a professional organization of interpreters?***

Yes. Interpreters have a national organization with statewide chapters across the United States:

***Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.***

333 Commerce Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703-838-0030(V/TTY) 703-838-0459 (TTY)  
703-838-0454 Fax

***RI Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.***

P.O. Box 20056  
Cranston, RI 02920