

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
276 Holmes 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
413-586-6644 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.

8630 Fenton Street, Suite 324
Silver Springs, MD 20910
301-608-0050 (V/TTY) 301-608-0562 (TTY)
301-608-0508 Fax

RI Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

P.O. Box 20056
Cranston, RI 02889

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