

*The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., (RID) Standard Practice Paper (SPP) provides a framework of basic, respectable standards for RID members' professional work and conduct with consumers. This paper also provides specific information about the practice setting. This document is intended to raise awareness, educate, guide and encourage sound basic methods of professional practice. The SPP should be considered by members in arriving at an appropriate course of action with respect to their practice and professional conduct.*

*It is hoped that the standards will promote commitment to the pursuit of excellence in the practice of interpreting and be used for public distribution and advocacy.*

### **About Team Interpreting**

Team interpreting is the utilization of two or more interpreters who support each other to meet the needs of a particular communication situation. Depending on both the needs of the participants and agreement between the interpreters, responsibilities of the individual team members can be rotated and feedback may be exchanged.

The decision to use a team rather than an individual interpreter is based on a number of factors, including, but not limited to:

- length and/or complexity of the assignment,
- unique needs of the persons being served,
- physical and emotional dynamics of the setting,
- avoidance of repetitive stress injuries (RSIs) for interpreters.

An interpreter who is hearing may sometimes team with an interpreter who is deaf, called a certified deaf interpreter (CDI). (See CDI Standard Practice Paper for additional information.)

### **The Team Process**

All team members are actively engaged in the process. They may be providing direct interpretation services, actively working between the two languages or functioning in a supporting role. This support is necessary to enhance the team's performance and assure accurate communication takes place and may include:

- monitoring the overall setting
- assuring appropriate and timely transitions
- supporting/cueing other team members as needed.

At times, more than one team of interpreters may be needed. Some factors determining the number of interpreters needed are:

- size of the audience
- setting
- communication preferences of presenter(s) and audience type and interactivity of presentation
- special communication needs of those in attendance (including, but not limited to, the need for tactile, oral or close visual range interpretation)
- dynamics of the scheduled events (concurrent sessions, off site tours, etc.)

When two or more interpreters are working together, the team will need a sufficient amount of time prior to the assignment to determine placement, roles and how to provide support to each other. Settings where teams work can include, but are not limited to, post-secondary education, ceremonies, lectures, workshops, staff meetings and employee orientations, adversarial hearings and performing arts.

RID believes that through teaming, all consumers can receive optimum communication because each team member can function at their best.

**RESOURCES:**

[www.dlr-consulting.ca/team..htm](http://www.dlr-consulting.ca/team..htm)

[www.signonasl.com/team.htm](http://www.signonasl.com/team.htm)