

Vocabulary Related to ASL Interpreting

- **Interpreter** – an individual who interprets orally/manually between two spoken languages or a signed and a spoken language.
- **Translator** – an individual who translates written materials from one language to the next.
- **Transliterator** – a person who interprets between spoken English, and PSE (pidgin signed English) – which is basically ASL signs produced in English word order.
- **Tactile interpreter** - A tactile interpreter also known as a tactile sign language interpreter facilitates communication for people who are deafblind by conveying spoken language or signed language through touch, allowing the deafblind individual to feel the movements and nuances of the message.
- **Signer** – a person who uses sign language (not qualified to interpret)
- **Deaf Interpreter** - Deaf Interpreter (DI), also known as a Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI), is a deaf or hard-of-hearing individual who is certified to interpret between American Sign Language (ASL) and English, bringing a unique cultural and linguistic understanding to the interpreting process.
- **CDI** – see above definition (has expertise in both ASL and English, has a deep understanding of Deaf Culture, training in interpretation in specialized settings, lived experience as Deaf people).
- **RID** – the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) – the primary certifying body for American Sign Language Interpreters in the United States and Canada (excluding Quebec)
- **NAD** – the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) – the largest advocacy agency of, by and for Deaf individuals in the U.S. This organization used to also certify ASL interpreters but now is a part of providing the joint RID/NAD National certification called the NIC (National Interpreter Certification).
- **BEI** – Bureau of Evaluators of Interpreters – a Texas organization that licenses and certifies ASL interpreters in Texas. This examination has also been purchased and used by other organizations throughout the U.S. as their interpreter evaluation tool.
- **Deaf** – part of the linguistic and cultural minority group known as the Deaf Community (uses American Sign Language – ASL).
- **deaf** – the pathological diagnosis given to an individual who has a severe to profound hearing loss. Also, the term deaf people use who are not a part of the Deaf Community (usually those who do not use ASL).
- **Hard-of-Hearing** – a person with a mild to moderate hearing loss.
- **Late deafened** – a person who became deaf later in life through age, illness or accident. Usually, these individuals have functioned as hearing people up until the point they became late deafened.

- **Deafblind** – individuals who experience deafness and blindness (to some degree). Those who identify as culturally Deafblind are those who are first Deaf and then become blind later (usually resulting in the person having learned ASL before becoming blind). Individuals who become blind first (and have been functionally hearing but then lose their hearing over time) generally do not become members of the Deaf Community since they have never known sign language.
- **Cochlear Implant (CI)** - A cochlear implant is an electronic medical device that potentially helps people with severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss restore some ability to hear. It works by bypassing the damaged hair cells in the inner ear (cochlea) and directly stimulating the auditory nerve
- **CART – Communication Access Realtime Translation** – also known as real-time captioning.
- **Deaf+** - a person who is both Deaf and has other disabilities
- **Consecutive interpretation** - Consecutive interpreting is a method where an interpreter translates a speaker's message into another language after the speaker has finished speaking, allowing the interpreter time to process and deliver the translation.
- **Simultaneous interpretation** - Simultaneous interpreting is a real-time translation where an interpreter translates a speaker's message from the source language to the target language while the speaker is speaking, without any pauses or interruptions.
- **Team interpretation (Teaming)** - In the context of ASL interpreting, team interpreting means two or more interpreters working together to provide a clear, accurate, and seamless interpretation, often rotating responsibilities to reduce fatigue and maintain quality.
- **Sign to Voice interpretation** – the ASL interpreter is orally interpreting from ASL into spoken English.
- **Voice to Sign interpretation** – the ASL interpreter is manually interpreting from spoken English into ASL.
- **ASL Gloss** - In the context of American Sign Language (ASL), glossing is a system of representing signs using English words as labels, not a literal translation, to help in learning and understanding ASL structure.
- **Incidental Learning** - Incidental learning is unplanned or unintentional learning that happens as a byproduct of engaging in an activity or task, rather than through focused instruction or a deliberate effort to learn. (like “learning by osmosis – hearing things on the radio, listening to others’ conversations, etc.)
- **Language Deprivation** - In the context of Deaf children, language deprivation refers to a chronic lack of full access to a natural language during their critical period of language acquisition, typically the first few years of life, leading to delays in language development and potential cognitive and social-emotional challenges.
- **Foreign Signed Language** – languages signed by Deaf Communities in countries other than the United States and Canada (which both use ASL). For example: French Sign Language (LSF), Quebec Sign Language (LSQ), Mexican Sign Language (LSM), etc.