

Contact Information

For a list of Licensed and Limited Licensed Interpreters, and/or information on licensing fees and how to apply for licensing as an interpreter for deaf and hard-of-hearing people, contact:

Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation

35 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0035
Voice: 207-624-8603
TTY users call Maine Relay 711

Jennifer Hawk
Telephone: 207-624-8617
Email: Jennifer.M.Hawk@Maine.gov

or

Tammy Reed
Telephone: 207-624-8624
Email: Tammy.Reed@Maine.gov

MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR

*Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
Division for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing
& Late Deafened*

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.

07/16

Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
150 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0150

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Hiring Interpreters for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

A guide to choosing a qualified, licensed professional



www.maine.gov/rehab

Sign Language Interpreters

MUST be Licensed

Individuals who are compensated for providing interpreting services for deaf and hard-of-hearing people must be licensed with the Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation (OPOR).

Licensed interpreters are issued a wallet-sized identification card. It is good practice to document the identification number of the interpreter hired for the encounter.

All licensed interpreters should provide OPOR's disclosure form to the consumer and hiring party. This form includes the interpreter's photo, signature, current licenses and training.

For a list of interpreting agencies, go to:
www.maine.gov/rehab/dod/resource_guide/interpreting.shtml



"Limited License" Requirements

Interpreters must provide OPOR with proof that they have attained:

1. 18 years of age.
2. A high school diploma or equivalent.
3. A sworn, signed statement that the applicant has read, understands, and agrees to abide by the Code of Ethics of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.
4. 100 hours of training, by an approved body, in American Sign Language (ASL), or a letter attesting the ASL skill is equal to 100+ hours of instruction.
5. 100 hours of training in the interpreting process, Deaf Culture and ethics within the past five years.

Advanced Licensing Requirements (Advanced Level of Interpreting)

- Numbers 1, 2 and 3 above **AND:**
- Provide documented proof of certification by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., or, documented proof of attaining a minimum certification level of four from the National Association of the Deaf, Inc.

Definitions

Interpreting—Interpreting, simply stated, is receiving a message in one language and delivering it in another. Interpreting is a complex process that requires a high degree of linguistic, cognitive, and technical skills.

Deaf People—Those whose sense of hearing is nonfunctional for the purpose of communication and whose primary means of communication is visual or tactile.

Hard-of-Hearing People—Those who have a functional hearing loss, who may or may not primarily use visual and tactile communication and who may or may not use assistive listening devices.



**Do Not Hire
Unlicensed Interpreters**