

State Board of Sign Language Interpreters

November 10, 2024

Town Hall

Virtual Zoom



STATE BOARD OF
SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS



Maryland

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF THE
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Agenda

- Board make-up
- Board Goals
- Regulations
- Grievance Process
- Web Portal
- Q & A

Current Board

- **Current Board**
 - Jacob Leffler, Community Member and Chair
 - Leslie Puzio, Community Member and Vice Chair
 - Susan Beaver, Community Member
 - Ritchie Bryant, MDAD Representative
 - Paige Franklin, DeafBlind Representative
- **Vacancy**
 - Community Member
 - PCRID Representative
- **Current status**
 - Finalizing regulations
 - Preparing web portal

The Board has had some position changes the first year of operations

Board Goals

- Implementation of the responsibilities placed upon the Board by the law and State of Maryland.
- Establishment of standards for quality interpreting services in the state.
- Elevation of profession while also elevating the quality of life for the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing community.

Regulations

- General License & Provisional General License
- Agencies/Businesses
- Speciality License (SL): Education & Provisional
Specialty License (PSL): Education

General License

General License

- Hold National, Regional
 - RID, BEI, or NAD certification
- Board is working on criteria established by Board for the full license
(implementation at a later date)
- Fee
 - Initial Application \$150
 - Renew - \$100

Provisional General License

- Pass a Knowledge and Ethics Exam
- NOTE:
 - *Cannot work in the following fields:*
 - *Legal*
 - *Education*
 - *Medical (the individual is accompanied with a general licensed interpreter OR a part of a formal mentorship)*
 - *Mental/behavioral health (the individual is accompanied with a general licensed interpreter OR a part of a formal mentorship)*
 - Fee
 - Initial Application - \$300 for 3 years
 - Renew - \$100 for 2 years (one time)

Agencies/Businesses

Agencies/Businesses

Definition: "Agency" means any for-profit or non-profit entity that provides or arranges for sign language interpretation services in the State for any individual or other entity, including but not limited to:

- (a) Consumers;*
- (b) Government agencies;*
- (c) Places of public accommodation; and*
- (d) Employers.*

Responsible for providing ONLY licensed ASL interpreters in all situations

- Register with GODHH
 - Owner/business information
 - Types of interpreting services provided
 - Proof of legal existence
 - Proof of good standing with state

Agencies/Businesses *(continued)*

- **VRI:**
 - All VRI assignments (Emergency situations, Oncall, Pre-scheduled)
 - Maryland-based interpreters who work from home in other states
 - Any consumer or business who is based in Maryland
 - Does not include VRS
- **Fees**
 - Initial Application - \$250.00
 - Renew - \$200.00

Disclaimer: Agencies shall provide sign language interpreting services via video remote interpreting or on-site, in-person interpreting according to the discretion of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

Speciality License: Education

Speciality License (SL): Education

- Hold a current, valid RID/NAD/BEI certification **OR** hold a minimum score of 4.0 on EIPA.
 - EIPA - Can be PSE-ASL or ASL-PSE assessment for the appropriate grade level the interpreter has been assigned to.
- Educational interpreters who hold the required EIPA score but no certification can only work in a pre-K-12 (ages 0-21) setting.
- Fee
 - Initial Application - \$75
 - Renew - \$50
- Renew every year
 - *Earns 1 CEUs in educational interpreting and relevant topics. 0.5 of the CEUs required of PPO including deaf culture, deaf awareness, and diversity in education. They are good for 2 years*

Provisional Speciality License (PSL): Education

- Obtain a passing score on the written Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA)
- Length of Provisional license
 - 3 years with option of 2 year extension (upon applying)
- Fee
 - Initial Application - \$150 for 3 years
 - Renew - \$100 for 2 years (one time)

Internship/Practicum Students

Internship & Practicum Students

- A student who is part of a supervised internship or practicum for an accredited institution of higher education, may NOT provide sign language interpretation services in the following areas:
 - A legal setting;
 - A behavioral health setting, unless the individual is accompanied by a licensed sign language interpreter;
 - An emergency medical setting, unless the individual is accompanied by a licensed sign language interpreter;
 - A school setting, unless the individual is accompanied by an licensed Educational interpreter.

Grievance Process

Grievance Process

- Cannot be anonymous
- GODHH will review to ensure all required documents are provided
- Grievance will be forwarded to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH)
 - OAH will review
 - The administrative judge will submit in writing the proposed findings of facts, proposed conclusions of law, and recommendations.
 - The judge will distribute the written proposed decision to all parties.

Web Portal

Web Portal Updates

- Register at <https://onestop.md.gov>
- See the demo: <https://youtu.be/7kRzLGZyXtQ>
- The Web Portal is still in progress.
- Release when the regulations are finalized.

Comments & Q&A

Ground rules:

- Raise your hand via Zoom - Board will call on you
- Identify yourself
- Speak one at a time
- Use one language at a time
- Be mindful of the interpreters working today
- Adhere to the two-minute limit for your comment or question

Any questions or comments not answered due to time constraints may be emailed to gov.odhh@maryland.gov or sbslimd@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

www.odhh.maryland.gov

sbslimd@gmail.com

<https://sites.google.com/view/sbslimd/faq>

