Sign Language Interpreting in North Dakota

Life in the vast lane...
43-52-02. Practice of interpreting.

An individual may not practice or represent as an interpreter for the deaf, deaf-blind, speech-impaired, or hard-of-hearing individuals in the state unless the individual holds a valid nationally-recognized certification.
Nationally recognized certification

43-52-01. Definitions.

4. “Nationally recognized certification” means certification granted by a national organization that is based on a skills assessment of the applicant. These organizations include:

- The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
- The National Association of the Deaf

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

education • standards • excellence

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.
NDCC 43-52-03. Exceptions.

- This chapter does not prevent or restrict:
  2. An interpreter working at a religious activity.
  3. An interpreter working as a volunteer without compensation.
  4. An interpreter working in an emergency...[until a certified interpreter is obtained].
  5. Interpreter interns or students-in-training...under supervision of a certified interpreter.
  6. An individual...communicating with/on behalf of [consumer(s)] who has/have specifically requested that that use by that individual.
NDCC 43-52-03. Exceptions.

- This chapter does not prevent or restrict:
  9. An individual working in an elementary or secondary school who has passed the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) at a level of 3.5 or higher.

- This chapter does not prevent or restrict:
  10. An individual who has successfully completed an accredited interpreter training program (ITP):
      - Without certification for ...up to two years...if, during that period
      - The individual is mentored by a certified interpreter or a deaf adult
What’s the difference?

**EIPA**
- Score system: 0.0/5.0
- Diagnostic feedback
- Performance evaluation; written test optional
- 3.5+ required in most states
- No prerequisites
- CEUs not required at this time

**RID**
- Strictly pass/fail
- Written AND performance tests required
- Candidates must have a bachelors degree
- CEUs required to maintain certification (8.0/4-year cycle)
Where to find interpreters...

- www.nd.gov/ndsd
  - Communications (left side of screen)
    - ND Freelance Interpreters

- www.rid.org
  - Search Tools (left side of screen)
    - Members
    - https://myaccount.rid.org/Public/Search/Member.aspx
Where to find interpreters...

• c-s-d.org/interpreting/

• Certified Interpreting and Consultants, Inc.

  Fergus Falls, MN
  Phone: (877) 283-5331
  Email: cicpartners@hotmail.com
Video Relay Service (VRS)

- VRS, AKA *video interpreting*, is a telecommunication service that allows deaf and hard of hearing individuals to communicate over video telephones with hearing people in real-time, via sign language interpreters
  - The hearing and deaf/HH consumers are each located in different places.
  - There is NO CHARGE for this service.
- Demo: [NVRC Technology Demonstration: Video Relay Services](www.ntid.rit.edu)
Where can VRS be accessed?

- purple.us/trynow
- sorensonvrs.com/
- zvrs.com
Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)

- VRI is an on-demand video telecommunication service that provides sign language or spoken language interpreting delivered over a live internet video connection using web cameras or videophones
  - Hearing and deaf/HH parties are physically present in the same location.
  - A remote or offsite interpreter provides communication facilitation.
- Demo: [lsa-video-inc-video-remote-interpreting-how-it-works/](https://lsa-video-inc-video-remote-interpreting-how-it-works/)

www.alldeaf.com

www.partnersinterpreting.com
Where can VRI be accessed?

- csdinterpreting.com/request_vri.html
- purple.us/trynow
- Lsavideo.com/
- dars.state.tx.us
Interpreting in ND...

**Cons**
- No work/no experience – No experience/no work
- Paras vs. interpreters
- Shortage of certified interpreters
- No licensing board
- Rural distances to assignments

**Pros**
- Supportive Deaf community
- Variety of assignments
- Resources
  - Mentors
  - MARIE Center
  - NDSD/Resource
  - Two workshops/year
  - Educational materials
  - Communication assessments
Questions/More information

Renae Bitner, BS, CI/CT, ED:K-12
Outreach Interpreter
ND School for the Deaf/
Resource Center for the
Deaf/Hard of Hearing
418 E. Broadway Ave., #15
Bismarck, ND 58501
Phone: 701-328-3988
Cell: 701-740-7753
Email: renae.bitner@sendit.nodak.edu