



New Mexico Commission for Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Toll-Free: 1.800.489.8536 | Local: 505.383.6530
Website: www.cdhh.state.nm.us

How to Find a Signed Language Interpreter

Contact Person: Lisa Dignan
Lisa.Dignan@state.nm.us
505.383.6530

Signed language interpreting services may be arranged through a referral agency or via direct agreement with an interpreter. There are many benefits to working through a referral agency, including assistance from experts in finding an interpreter who is an appropriate linguistic match for your deaf or hard of hearing client, as well as convenience.

Statewide Interpreter Referral Services

All of the agencies listed on the next page serve consumers throughout New Mexico, and many contract with interpreters in a variety of communities around the state. Interpreter referral agencies should generally attempt to find interpreters in the local area of the assignment first in order to minimize travel costs. Hiring entities are encouraged to establish agreements with multiple referral agencies for their interpreting needs, as none of the agreements are 'exclusive' and often one agency is a better choice in one situation while another is a better fit for a different situation.

On-Site or Video Remote Interpreting Services

Some of these referral agencies provide both on-site interpreters as well as interpreters via Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) - this information is included in their individual listings. VRI can be appropriate in some situations, but an on-site interpreter preferable for most deaf and hard of hearing consumers in most settings. If VRI is used, an interpreter located in New Mexico is better able to effectively navigate linguistic nuances particular to our state. Please see the NMCDHH Position Statement on Video Remote Interpreting on the home page of our website for more detailed information about VRI and its limitations: www.cdhh.state.nm.us.

State Licensure

New Mexico requires all signed language interpreters to be licensed in order to protect deaf and hard of hearing consumers. Practicing without a license is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 364 days in jail and/or up to a \$1000 fine. Interpreting is defined as any form of facilitating communication in a visual form, regardless of the individual's job title or position description. The statute, rules, forms and a searchable database of licensed interpreters can be found at the website of the Signed Language Interpreting Practice Board: www.rld.state.nm.us/boards/Signed_Language_Interpreting_Practices.aspx.

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)

RID is the national professional organization and certifying body for signed language interpreters. A searchable database of interpreters available for freelance work is included on their website: www.RID.org. See the "Search Tools" menu at the top of the page and select "Find a Member."

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<p>Community Outreach Program for the Deaf (COPD) 3908 Carlisle NE Albuquerque, NM 87107 505.255.7636 or toll free 800.229.4262 After-hours emergency answering service: In Albuquerque 505.857.3652 Outside of Albuquerque 888.549.7684 www.copdnm.org interpreterscheduling@copdnm.org On-site and VRI services VRI provided via Scopia Video Conferencing platform (no fee for Scopia access).</p>	<p>Sorenson Community Interpreting Services 6500 Jefferson St. NE, Suite 160 Albuquerque, NM 87109 Paula McCluskey, Account Manager Phone: 505.363.0741 Videophone: 505.219.2447 pmccluskey@sorenson.com 24/7 Access: 800.659.4783 communityinterpreting@sorenson.com www.sorenson.com/interpreting On-site interpreting only - no VRI</p>
<p>Southwest Interpreting Services Lorena Ramirez, Owner 5787 Crest Road Santa Teresa, NM 88008 915.478.5022 www.southwestinterpreting.org SouthwestInterpreting@gmail.com On-site and VRI services VRI provided through FaceTime.</p>	

State Procurement Process

The State of New Mexico has a Statewide Price Agreement in place for the provision of signed language interpreters, but state agencies are not limited to only entering agreements with interpreter referral services included on the price agreement. State agencies should talk to multiple interpreter referral agencies to determine which can best meet their needs for each assignment, and which have interpreters in their local area so that the state agency is not paying for unnecessary travel.

The Statewide Price Agreement can be found in the "Services" section of the list under "Signed Language Interpreting Services" at

www.generalservices.state.nm.us/statepurchasing/Statewide_Price_Agreements.aspx.

Any entity may use the Price Agreement as a reference as they research price and procedures for hiring interpreters.