

## Oregon Qualification and Certification for Sign Language Interpreters

### **Background**

After Oregon House Bill 2419 (HB2419) was passed, Sign Language Interpreters from Oregon came together with other stakeholders to decide their specific path to health care interpreter qualification and certification. For example, what requirements would Sign Language Interpreters need to meet in order to be considered Oregon Qualified and Oregon Certified?

The result was the language found in the Oregon Administrative Rules 333-002-0040, which explains how to become an Oregon Qualified and Oregon Certified Sign Language Health Care Interpreter (HCI).

### **What is the difference?**

The specific path for Sign Language HCIs is not the same as it is for spoken language HCIs. The reason why is because not all spoken languages have certification exams, unlike sign language, which has the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) certification exam.

Please see the list below which shows what you need in order to become an Oregon Qualified Sign Language Health Care Interpreter and an Oregon Certified Sign Language Health Care Interpreter. You'll notice that both require RID certification, but only one requires 60 hours of training.

### **Oregon Qualified Sign Language Health Care Interpreter**

- 18+yrs old
- High school diploma, GED, or equivalent
- Not on Medicaid Exclusion list
- Pass a background check
- Abide by NCIHC and RID code of ethics and standards of practice
- Submit required application forms
- RID Certified

### **Oregon Certified Sign Language Health Care Interpreter**

- 18+yrs old
- High school diploma, GED, or equivalent
- Not on Medicaid Exclusion list
- Pass a background check
- Abide by NCIHC and RID code of ethics and standards of practice
- Submit required application forms
- RID Certified
- 60 hours of OHA approved training

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Question: I completed my 60 hours of training and I have a BA/AA/Masters/PhD in American Sign Language. Do I meet the requirements to be an Oregon Certified Sign Language Interpreter?

Answer: Unfortunately, no. Oregon Certified Sign Language Health Care Interpreters must have 60 hours of training and RID certification.

Question: Why do I need Oregon certification or qualification when I already have my RID?

Answer: Sign Language interpreters wanted a path to recognize their expertise in working in the healthcare field, the same as spoken language interpreters in Oregon. During the public hearing on HB2419, the Oregon Association for the Deaf and ASL interpreters provided testimony in favor of this bill.

Question: How long does my Oregon Qualified Sign Language HCI designation last?

Answer: Three years. During this time, it is expected you will obtain your 60 hours of OHA approved training and complete 24 hours of continuing education to become an Oregon Certified Sign Language HCI.

Question: How do I apply?

Answer: All applications (first time applicants and for renewal) can be found on the Office for Equity and Inclusion website. Here is a link to: <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/oei/Pages/HCI-Program.aspx>.