

Memorandum

To: Oregon Council on Health Care Interpreters

From: Samie Patnode, Policy Analyst

Date: December 9, 2024

Subject: Board of Sign Language Interpreter Updates

Sign Language Interpreters - Limited Waiver on Enforcement Extended

While the Board of Sign Language Interpreters (Board), Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) continues to work through the rule writing process the Health Licensing Office (HLO) is extending the limited waiver on enforcement through midnight on June 30, 2025. This means that the HLO is exercising its discretion to not take disciplinary action against individuals who are required to be licensed and choose to work under the limited waiver on enforcement, i.e., not obtain a permanent board license (permanent license).

The limited waiver of enforcement is narrow; the waiver only applies to the singular issue of providing sign language interpretation services in Oregon without a license. The HLO may impose discipline for any other violation of the HLO or Board rules or statutes. The limited waiver of enforcement ends on June 30, 2025. On July 1, 2025, any individual not covered by an exception and providing sign language interpreting (SLI) services will need to have a permanent license to avoid enforcement action by HLO.

In light of the extension of the limited waiver on enforcement, the HLO has received inquiries regarding potential refunds or discounts for the upcoming renewal period for individuals who have obtained a license. It is important to clarify that the limited waiver on enforcement does not serve as an exemption from licensure requirements. Instead, it means that HLO will not take action against individuals who are providing

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sign language interpreting without a license. However, individuals who have not obtained the proper licensure are prohibited from claiming to be "licensed" or using credential acronyms in their signature block to imply licensure.

Therefore, HLO will not be issuing refunds to individuals who have applied for and received a license to provide sign language interpreting.

2025 Board meeting dates:

- January 9, 2025
- April 3, 2025
- August 7, 2025
- October 30, 2025

2025 RAC Meetings:

The RAC will continue to meet through 2025 or until recommendations are made to the Board. The first RAC is scheduled for February 5, 2025. Additional RACs will be scheduled as needed.

All meetings will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end by 2 p.m. All meetings will be held through Zoom or in-person at the Health Licensing Office (HLO). CART services and three sign language interpreters will be providing services at each meeting. For the latest meeting information visit: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HLO/Pages/Board-Sign-Language-Interpreters-Meetings.aspxup-to-date>

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Board Member Positions:

The HLO is currently recruiting for three vacant board member positions. To apply for a board member position visit: <https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/board-list.aspx>

Two members who are Deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing; represents an Oregon association that advocates for the protection of persons who are deaf and hard of hearing; and is proficient in American Sign Language (ASL).

One member who represents a professional organization in this state for sign language interpreters and who holds a license issued by the Board.

For questions or additional information contact Josh Page at josh.page@oha.oregon.gov

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