



Board of Sign Language Interpreters

OREGON REVISED STATUTES

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CHAPTER 676.750 – 789

& 676.992

2023 EDITION



HEALTH LICENSING OFFICE

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SIGNED LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

676.750 Definitions for ORS 676.750 to 676.789. As used in ORS 676.750 to 676.789:

- (1) “Licensee” means an individual who holds a license issued under ORS 676.750 to 676.789.
- (2) “Signed language interpretation services” means the interpretation of conversations and other communications by use of a visual signed language.
- (3) “Sign language interpreter” means an individual who provides signed language interpretation services. [2023 c.414 §1]

676.753 Supervisory sign language interpreter license. (1) The Health Licensing Office may issue a supervisory sign language interpreter license to an applicant who:

- (a) Is at least 18 years of age;
 - (b) Demonstrates compliance with the code of professional conduct authored by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or its successor organization, and the National Association of the Deaf, or its successor organization, and approved by the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters;
 - (c) Has at least three years of qualifying experience, as determined by the board;
 - (d) Meets the requirements established by the board relating to minimum qualifications, education or training or any combination thereof;
 - (e) Meets any other requirements established by the board; and
 - (f) Pays a fee established by the office.
- (2) A licensed supervisory sign language interpreter:
- (a) May not provide signed language interpretation services in a legal or medical setting without a license issued under ORS 676.765 or 676.768.
 - (b) May supervise licensed provisional sign language interpreters. [2023 c.414 §2]

676.756 Sign language interpreter license; renewal. (1) The Health Licensing Office may issue a sign language interpreter license to an applicant who:

- (a) Is at least 18 years of age;
 - (b) Demonstrates compliance with the code of professional conduct authored by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or its successor organization, and the National Association of the Deaf, or its successor organization, and approved by the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters;
 - (c) Meets the requirements established by the board relating to minimum qualifications, education or training or any combination thereof;
 - (d) Meets any other requirements established by the board; and
 - (e) Pays a fee established by the office.
- (2) A license issued under this section may be renewed twice.
- (3) A licensed sign language interpreter may not provide signed language interpretation services in a legal or medical setting without a license issued under ORS 676.765 or 676.768. [2023 c.414 §3]

676.759 Provisional sign language interpreter license; renewal. (1) The Health Licensing Office may issue a provisional sign language interpreter license to an applicant who:

- (a) Is at least 18 years of age;
- (b) Demonstrates compliance with the code of professional conduct authored by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or its successor organization, and the National Association of the Deaf, or its successor organization, and approved by the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters;
- (c) Meets the requirements established by the board relating to minimum qualifications, education or training or any combination thereof;

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(d) Meets any other requirements established by the board; and

(e) Pays a fee established by the office.

(2) A license issued under this section may be renewed up to five times.

(3) A licensed provisional sign language interpreter:

(a) May provide signed language interpretation services only under the supervision of a licensed supervisory sign language interpreter.

(b) May not provide signed language interpretation services in an educational, legal or medical setting without a license issued under section ORS 676.762, 676.765 or 676.768. [2023 c.414 §4]

Note: Sections 28 and 29, chapter 414, Oregon Laws 2023, provide:

Sec. 28. Notwithstanding sections 3 [676.756] and 4 [676.759] of this 2023 Act, a licensed sign language interpreter may supervise a licensed provisional sign language interpreter. [2023 c.414 §28]

Sec. 29. Section 28 of this 2023 Act is repealed on July 1, 2030. [2023 c.414 §29]

676.762 Educational sign language interpreter license; renewal. (1) The Health Licensing Office may issue an educational sign language interpreter license to an applicant who:

(a) Is at least 18 years of age;

(b) Demonstrates compliance with the code of professional conduct authored by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or its successor organization, and the National Association of the Deaf, or its successor organization, and approved by the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters;

(c) Meets the requirements established by the Department of Education by rule relating to sign language interpreters serving in schools;

(d) Meets any other requirements established by the board; and

(e) Pays a fee established by the office.

(2) A license issued under this section may be renewed up to five times.

(3) Only a licensed sign language interpreter, licensed supervisory sign language interpreter or licensed educational sign language interpreter may provide signed language interpretation services in an educational setting as defined by the board. [2023 c.414 §5]

676.765 Medical sign language interpreter license. (1) The Health Licensing Office may issue a medical sign language interpreter license to an applicant who:

(a) Is a licensed supervisory sign language interpreter or a licensed sign language interpreter;

(b) Meets any requirements established by the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters; and

(c) Pays a fee established by the office.

(2) Only a licensed medical sign language interpreter may provide signed language interpretation services in a medical setting as defined by the board. [2023 c.414 §6]

676.768 Legal sign language interpreter license. (1) The Health Licensing Office may issue a legal sign language interpreter license to an applicant who:

(a) Is a licensed supervisory sign language interpreter or a licensed sign language interpreter;

(b) Meets any requirements established by the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters; and

(c) Pays a fee established by the office.

(2) Only a licensed legal sign language interpreter may provide signed language interpretation services in a legal setting as defined by the board. [2023 c.414 §7]

676.771 Prohibition on unlicensed provision of signed language interpretation services, use of title; exceptions. (1)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, a person who

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is not licensed under ORS 676.750 to 676.789 may not provide signed language interpretation services.

(b) A person who is not licensed under ORS 676.750 to 676.789 may provide signed language interpretation services:

(A) In circumstances in which a license issued under ORS 676.750 to 676.789 is not required.

(B) In emergency situations involving imminent or immediate harm and during which a licensee is not available.

(C) In other extenuating circumstances, as determined by the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters.

(D) If the person is a qualified interpreter under ORS 45.288 or a court interpreter certified under ORS 45.291 providing signed language interpretation services for the purpose of a proceeding in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Oregon Tax Court or a circuit court or at the direction or with the approval of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or the presiding judge of the court in which the proceeding occurs.

(2) A person who is not licensed under ORS 676.750 to 676.789 may not assume or use any title, words, abbreviations, signs or insignias, including but not limited to the titles “licensed supervisory sign language interpreter,” “licensed sign language interpreter,” “licensed provisional sign language interpreter,” “licensed educational sign language interpreter,” “licensed legal sign language interpreter” or “licensed medical sign language interpreter,” that indicate that the person is licensed to provide signed language interpretation services under ORS 676.750 to 676.789.

(3) For the purpose of providing signed language interpretation services, a person may not employ or contract with an individual who is not licensed to provide signed language interpretation services under ORS 676.750 to 676.789. [2023 c.414 §8]

676.774 Protection, disclosure of information acquired while providing signed language interpretation services. A licensee who acquires any information protected by confidentiality, privilege or privacy laws while providing signed language interpretation services may not be required to disclose the information in an investigation, trial or other legal proceeding without the consent of the individuals for whom the signed language interpretation services were provided. [2023 c.414 §9]

676.777 Discipline. In the manner prescribed in ORS chapter 183 for contested cases, and at the direction of the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters, the Health Licensing Office may impose a form of discipline listed in ORS 676.612 for a violation of ORS 676.750 to 676.789 or rules adopted under ORS 676.750 to 676.789. [2023 c.414 §10]

676.780 State Board of Sign Language Interpreters. (1) There is established within the Health Licensing Office the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor as follows:

(a)(A) Two members who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing and who represent an association in this state that promotes and protects the rights of persons who are deaf and hard of hearing;

(B) One member who represents a professional organization in this state for sign language interpreters and who holds a license issued under ORS 676.750 to 676.789;

(C) One member who represents a sign language interpreter education program at a post-secondary institution in this state and who holds a license issued under ORS 676.750 to 676.789;

(D) Two members who are hearing interpreters certified by or registered with a national organization for sign language interpreters and who hold licenses issued under ORS 676.750 to 676.789; and

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(E) One member who is a deaf interpreter certified by or registered with a national organization for sign language interpreters and who holds a license issued under ORS 676.750 to 676.789.

(b) All members must be residents of this state and proficient in American Sign Language. To the extent practicable, the members must reflect the geographic and racial diversity of this state.

(2) The term of office of each member of the board is three years, but a member serves at the pleasure of the Governor. Before the expiration of a term of a member, the Governor shall appoint a successor whose term begins on January 1 next following. A member is eligible for reappointment. If there is a vacancy for any cause, the Governor shall make an appointment to become immediately effective for the unexpired term.

(3) A member of the board is entitled to compensation and expenses as provided in ORS 292.495.

(4) The board shall select one of its members as chairperson and another as vice chairperson, for such terms and with duties and powers necessary for the performance of the functions of the office of chairperson and vice chairperson as the board determines.

(5) A majority of the members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(6) The board shall meet at least once each quarter as determined by the office. The board may also meet at other times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the members of the board. [2023 c.414 §11]

Note: Section 27, chapter 414, Oregon Laws 2023, provides:

Sec. 27. (1) Notwithstanding the term of office specified by section 11 of this 2023 Act [676.780], of the members first appointed to the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters:

(a) Two shall serve for a term ending December 31, 2024.

(b) Two shall serve for a term ending December 31, 2025.

(c) Three shall serve for a term ending December 31, 2026.

(2) The members who are required to hold a license under sections 1 to 14 of this 2023 Act [676.750 to 676.789] shall obtain a license not later than January 31, 2024. [2023 c.414 §27]

676.783 Board duties, powers; rules. The State Board of Sign Language Interpreters:

(1) Shall advise the Health Licensing Office in the establishment of:

(a) A publicly available registry of licensees that includes at least the names and specific license of each licensee.

(b) A process to receive and address grievances regarding licensees and signed language interpretation services.

(2) Shall adopt rules to carry out ORS 676.750 to 676.789, including rules to:

(a) Establish standards relating to minimum qualifications, education or training or any combination thereof for issuance of licenses under ORS 676.750 to 676.789;

(b) Determine qualifications for renewal of licenses issued under ORS 676.750 to 676.789;

(c) Establish supervision requirements; and

(d) Establish a code of professional conduct for sign language interpreters licensed under ORS 676.750 to 676.789.

(3) May establish additional specialty licenses for sign language interpreters that the board determines necessary. [2023 c.414 §12]

676.786 Health Licensing Office, Department of Education rules. The Health Licensing Office and Department of Education may adopt rules with the advice of the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters to carry out the office's and the department's duties under ORS 676.750 to 676.789. [2023 c.414 §13]

For an official copy of the Oregon Revised Statutes, please go to the Oregon State Legislature website: https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws or call 1-800-332-2313.

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PENALTIES

676.789 Criminal penalties. Violation of any provision of ORS 676.750 to 676.789 is a Class C misdemeanor. [2023 c.414 §14]

676.992 Civil penalties. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, and in addition to any other penalty or remedy provided by law, the Health Licensing Office may impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000 for each violation of the following statutes and any rule adopted under the following statutes:

- (a) ORS 688.701 to 688.734 (athletic training);
 - (b) ORS 690.005 to 690.225 (cosmetology);
 - (c) ORS 680.500 to 680.565 (denture technology);
 - (d) Subject to ORS 676.616 and 687.445, ORS 687.405 to 687.495 (direct entry midwifery);
 - (e) ORS 690.350 to 690.410 (tattooing, electrolysis, body piercing, earlobe piercing, dermal implanting and scarification);
 - (f) ORS 694.015 to 694.170 (dealing in hearing aids);
 - (g) ORS 688.800 to 688.840 (respiratory therapy and polysomnography);
 - (h) ORS chapter 700 (environmental sanitation);
 - (i) ORS 675.365 to 675.410 (sexual abuse specific treatment);
 - (j) ORS 678.710 to 678.820 (nursing home administrators and residential care facility administrators);
 - (k) ORS 691.405 to 691.485 (dietitians);
 - (L) ORS 676.612 (prohibited acts);
 - (m) ORS 676.802 to 676.830 (applied behavior analysis);
 - (n) ORS 681.700 to 681.730 (music therapy);
 - (o) ORS 676.630 to 676.660 (advanced nonablative esthetics procedure);
 - (p) ORS 681.740 to 681.758 (art therapy);
 - (q) ORS 676.665 to 676.689 (lactation consultation);
 - (r) ORS 676.730 to 676.748 (genetic counseling); and
 - (s) ORS 676.750 to 676.789 (signed language interpretation).
- (2) The office may take any other disciplinary action that it finds proper, including but not limited to assessment of costs of disciplinary proceedings, not to exceed \$5,000, for violation of any statute listed in subsection (1) of this section or any rule adopted under any statute listed in subsection (1) of this section.
- (3) Subsection (1) of this section does not limit the amount of the civil penalty resulting from a violation of ORS 694.042.
- (4) In imposing a civil penalty under this section, the office shall consider the following factors:
- (a) The immediacy and extent to which the violation threatens the public health or safety;
 - (b) Any prior violations of statutes, rules or orders;
 - (c) The history of the person incurring a penalty in taking all feasible steps to correct any violation;
- and
- (d) Any other aggravating or mitigating factors.
- (5) Civil penalties under this section shall be imposed as provided in ORS 183.745.
- (6) The moneys received by the office from civil penalties under this section shall be deposited in the Health Licensing Office Account and are continuously appropriated to the office for the administration and enforcement of the laws the office is charged with administering and enforcing that

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govern the person against whom the penalty was imposed. [2003 c.547 §4; 2005 c.648 §14; 2007 c.841 §17; 2009 c.701 §17; 2009 c.768 §31; 2011 c.346 §31; 2011 c.630 §20; 2011 c.715 §21; 2013 c.82 §5; 2013 c.314 §17; 2013 c.568 §33; 2013 c.657 §10; 2013 c.771 §17; 2015 c.632 §6; 2015 c.674 §16; 2015 c.722 §11; 2017 c.155 §13; 2017 c.421 §9; 2017 c.499 §20; 2018 c.61 §25; 2021 c.231 §14; 2023 c.414 §26; 2023 c.500 §5]

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