

Where interpreters work

THE SHORT VERSION

Nine settings where sign language interpreters work, and what the work looks like in each. The range is wide — a science lesson, an emergency room, a courtroom, and a music festival all need interpreters, and they ask for very different things from one.

NINE SETTINGS

What the interpreter provides, and where it happens.

SETTING	WHAT THE WORK LOOKS LIKE
01 Educational	Access to instruction and classroom interaction for Deaf students, in K–12 and in post-secondary institutions. ♦ A high school science class, where the interpreter signs the teacher's lecture. ♦ A college student attending lectures, labs, and study groups with interpreter support. ♦ Parent-teacher conferences for Deaf parents.
02 Medical	Making sure Deaf patients and healthcare providers can communicate clearly with each other. ♦ A doctor's appointment, signing the patient's symptoms and the doctor's diagnosis. ♦ Hospital admissions, surgery, mental health sessions, or emergency care. ♦ Therapy sessions — physical, occupational, or mental health.
03 Legal and court	Clear communication in legal environments, so that the rights of Deaf individuals are protected. ♦ Courtroom proceedings such as trials or hearings. ♦ Police interviews and interrogations. ♦ Lawyer-client meetings and legal consultations.

SETTING	WHAT THE WORK LOOKS LIKE
04 Community and social services	Public services, where interpreters help Deaf individuals get information and take part fully. ♦ Job training workshops, unemployment offices, or housing assistance appointments. ♦ Social work visits and family services consultations. ♦ Town hall meetings and community outreach programs.
05 Workplace	Access to job-related communication and to workplace training. ♦ Staff meetings, interviews, and job orientation sessions. ♦ On-the-job training and performance reviews. ♦ Company events and safety briefings.
06 Religious	Making religious services and activities accessible to Deaf community members. ♦ Church services, Bible studies, or prayer meetings. ♦ Weddings, funerals, and baptisms. ♦ Religious conferences and retreats.
07 Media and performing arts	Making entertainment and media accessible. ♦ Live theater, with interpreters visible on stage. ♦ Concerts and music festivals. ♦ News broadcasts and public service announcements.
08 VRS and VRI	Video relay service lets a Deaf person talk with a hearing person by phone through a video interpreter. Video remote interpreting brings an interpreter in by video call when nobody is available in person. ♦ A Deaf person calling a hearing friend through VRS. ♦ A hospital using VRI during an emergency, when no in-person interpreter is available.
09 Conferences and public events	Large events, where interpreters cover presentations, panels, and audience interaction. ♦ Professional conferences and conventions. ♦ Political rallies and protests. ♦ University graduation ceremonies.