



## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN INTERPRETER AND A SIGNER

**Interpreters** – have undertaken specific training to interpret between British Sign Language and English to enable hearing people and deaf people to communicate effectively about any subject. As with spoken language interpreting, BSL/English Interpreter training is undertaken at degree level. It takes between 5 & 7 years of regular usage to achieve bilingual fluency in any second language.

**A Member of the Register of Sign Language Interpreters is a person:**

- who is **bilingual**: this means that they have native fluency in both Sign Language and English.
- who has passed either the NVQ Level 4 in BSL/English Interpreting or the UCLAN Post Graduate Diploma in BSL/English Interpreting
- who has registered with the Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People (CACDP) who are the national registration body.

**A Trainee Interpreter is a person:**

- who is **bilingual**: this means that they have native fluency in both Sign Language and English.
- who has passed the NVQ Level 4 British Sign Language Units.
- who has completed a recognised interpreter training course.
- who has work experience and is studying to become a qualified interpreter.
- who has registered with CACDP the national registration body.

**A Junior Trainee Interpreter is a person:**

- who has passed their Stage 3/NVQ3 British Sign Language Units.
- who is undertaking or has completed a recognised interpreter qualification.
- who has registered with CACDP (the national registration body).
- It is strongly recommended that JTI's only work under supervised conditions.

**Signers - have sign language skills to communicate directly with deaf people ranging from very basic to functional communication in everyday settings. They may have between 1 & 4 years experience depending on their qualification level and have undertaken no interpreter training.**

**An NVQ4 Holder is regarded as a person:**

- who has obtained fluency in sign language.
- who has knowledge of structural and regional variations in sign language.
- who has a broad and extensive knowledge & experience mixing with the deaf community.
- who is not eligible to act as an interpreter, even an 'unqualified interpreter'.

**A Stage 3/NVQ 3 Holder is regarded as a person:**

- who has obtained near fluency in sign language.
- who has knowledge of structural and regional variations in sign language.
- who has a broad knowledge & experience mixing with the deaf community.
- who is not eligible to act as an interpreter, even an 'unqualified interpreter'.

**A Stage 2 Holder is regarded as a person:**

- whose sign language will enable them to deal with simple everyday conversational settings.
- who should be producing simple sign language constructions effectively.
- who has a reasonable knowledge and experience of the deaf community.
- who is not eligible to act as an interpreter, even an 'unqualified interpreter'.


**A Stage 1 Holder is regarded as a person:**

- who can conduct a short, basic conversation with a deaf person.
- whose use of sign language vocabulary and grammar is limited.
- whose contact and experience of deaf people is limited.
- who is not eligible to act as an interpreter, even an 'unqualified interpreter'.

Adapted (to include up to date registration information) from 'Communication is your Responsibility', The Commission of Enquiry into Human Aids to Communication (March 1992).

This list illustrates where interpreters may work but is not exhaustive:

	<b>Appointment</b>	<b>JTI</b>	<b>TI</b>	<b>MRSLI</b>
<b>Work</b>				
	Job Interview		✓	✓
	Appointment with DEA		✓	✓
	Training Sessions	✓	✓	✓
	Appointments at Job Centre		✓	✓
	Induction		✓	✓
	Supervision Meeting		✓	✓
	Staff / Team Meeting	✓	✓	✓
	Disciplinary Meeting			✓
Tribunals			✓	
<b>Legal</b>				
	Police Interview			✓
	Solicitor Appointment		✓	✓
	County Court, Magistrates Court, Crown Court			✓
<b>Health</b>				
	GP Appointment		✓	✓
	Hospital Appointment		✓	✓
	Physiotherapy Appointment		✓	✓
	Occupational Therapy Appointment		✓	✓
	Chiropody Appointment		✓	✓
	Midwife Appointment		✓	✓
	Health Visitor Appointment		✓	✓
	Psychology Assessment			✓
	Optician Appointment		✓	✓
	Dentist Appointment		✓	✓
<b>Education</b>				
	Review Meeting		✓	✓
	Parents Evening		✓	✓
	Meetings at school		✓	✓

<b>Money</b>				
	Arrange a loan		✓	✓
	Appointment about benefits		✓	✓
	Bank Appointment		✓	✓
<b>Religious</b>				
	Wedding		✓	✓
	Funeral		✓	✓
	Christening		✓	✓
<b>Social Services</b>				
	Appointment with Social Worker	✓	✓	✓
	Annual Review Meeting		✓	✓
<b>Other</b>				
	Conferences			✓
	Telephone Call	✓	✓	✓
	Appointment with DIAL or CAB		✓	✓
	Theatre performances		✓	✓
	Meetings	✓	✓	✓
	Driving test		✓	✓
	Translate letter or to write letter		✓	✓