

New Zealand Sign Language Interpreter Services

A sign language interpreter aids communication between deaf and hearing people by interpreting between spoken English or Maori and New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL).

Some interpreters can also help with communication for deaf people who do not sign, but require spoken messages to be relayed orally with clear lip-patterns.

New Zealand Sign Language interpreters are available through the Deaf Association offices throughout New Zealand. There are also interpreters who work privately.

The Deaf Association requires government agencies and other organisations to pay for the use of interpreter services. Contact the Deaf Association to book a Sign Language Interpreter.

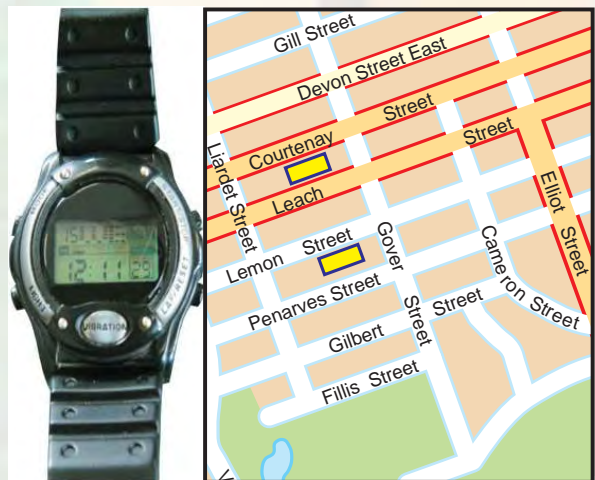
Booking an Interpreter



Contact your local Deaf Association office.
<http://www.deaf.co.nz/index.php>

Book your interpreter before you need her/him. Talk about things like:

- What is the meeting for?
E.g. doctors appointment/job interview, etc
- How many deaf and hearing people will be there?
- Date, time, address



- Who will pay for the interpreter and how will they be paid?



How To Work With An Interpreter

- The interpreter will introduce himself or herself to you when they get to the place.
- Talk about where you will sit or stand.
- The interpreter will stand/sit alongside the speaker and face the deaf person.
- If the interpreting takes a long time, the interpreter may need a short break.
- Talk about when the interpreter will have breaks before the interpreting begins.
- When the interpreting is completed, the interpreter will ask the person who booked them to sign the job sheet.

What an Interpreter Will Do

- Explain how to work with an interpreter.
- Keep the interpreting work private and confidential. They will not tell other people what the meeting was about.
- Work to the Interpreters' Code of Ethics (rules of how they should act when they are working).

What an Interpreter Will Not Do

- Tell you what to say.
- Take notes of the meeting.
- Offer their views or ideas.
- Make any comment.
- Make any suggestions to deaf or hearing people in the meeting.
- Change anything that you say and sign. If you make a mistake the interpreter will not correct it.

Who Will Pay for the Interpreter?

Interpreters are paid for in different ways. Below is a list of times when an interpreter will be paid for and you will **NOT** have to pay yourself.

Private Medical Venues

- Doctor's appointment
- Audiology, ENT –Ear Nose and Throat Doctor
- Speech therapy
- X-Rays, scans
- Optometrist, optician
- Physiotherapy



Other Health Services

- Dentist
- Doctors home visits
- Home Nursing Services: District Nurse, Midwife, Social Worker
- Health Agencies: asthma, cancer, etc
- Alternative Health Care: Naturopath, Acupuncture, Osteopath, occupational safety and health, Hospice
- **Veterinary**
- Drug and alcohol treatment services
- Mental health specialist interpreting



Support

- Counselling – only some will be paid for – check with the Deaf Association first
- Budget advice, accountants appointments
- Lawyer's meetings
- Citizens Advice Bureau – information
- Public education, community meetings
- Adult education, life skills training
- Parent-Teacher Meetings, school meetings, assemblies
- Private insurance
- Sports meetings (not training, team functions or deaf sports meetings)
- Marae
- Leisure, hobbies
- Funeral
- Travel
- Housing, real estate
- Retailers
- Disability support agencies (e.g. CCS, IHC)



Other

- Telephone interpreting



Hospital

- Hospital appointments: clinic, social work, in/out patient services, day surgery etc.
- Accident and emergency services

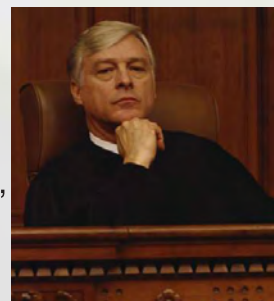


Government Departments

- ACC meetings (only when meeting ACC Case Worker)
- WINZ- income support (only when meeting with ISS Customer Service Officer)
- Workbridge (only when meeting with Workbridge staff)
- Housing New Zealand
- Department of Education, Special Education Services
- Immigration, Customs Department
- Children and young persons service (only when meeting with staff)
- Government departments e.g. Human Rights Commission, NZQA, Internal Affairs, Members of Parliament

Legal

- All court proceedings
- Police interview
- Police call-out
- Prison interviews, visits
- Probation, periodic detention – PD, corrections, young offenders



Employment

- Job interviews
- Staff meetings
- Inservice training (job coaching)
- Mediation, arbitration
- Appraisals, performance reviews
- Other work related communication access



When You Have to Pay for an Interpreter

- For social events such as weddings, 21st parties, etc.

Link:

New Zealand Sign Language Interpreters Association

<http://slianz.org.nz/index.php?page=home>

