
British Sign Language

Working with Interpreters... Easy Rules to Follow

Did You Know?

- ? British Sign Language is the first language of many Deaf people.
- ? It is a true language, not just gestures.
- ? BSL users can “say” everything in their language that you can say in yours.
- ? Just like with any other language, if you can't speak it you can use an interpreter to communicate.
- ? Sign Language interpreters should be either a Member of the Register of Interpreters or an interpreter in training.
- ? All interpreters are bound by a Code of Practice to protect you and the person you are communicating with.

Do

- ☞ Speak directly to the deaf person, not to the interpreter.
- ☞ Allow the interpreter to sit opposite the deaf person.
- ☞ Make sure the deaf person can see the interpreter clearly.
- ☞ Try to make sure that there is no background noise, so that the interpreter can hear clearly.
- ☞ Send any useful information to the interpreter before the appointment to give them time to prepare.
- ☞ Remember that the interpreter will interpret everything that is said or signed (even audible asides).
- ☞ Book 2 interpreters for an event lasting 2 hours or more.

Don't

- ☞ Allow more than one person to speak at a time.
 - ☞ Expect an interpreter to work continuously for more than 30 to 45 minutes; allow regular breaks.
 - ☞ Feel uncomfortable if the deaf person looks at the interpreter, rather than you.
 - ☞ Ask the interpreter to give advice or offer opinions during the interpreting assignment.
 - ☞ Ask the interpreter for personal details during the interpreting assignment.
 - ☞ Expect the interpreter to take sides, they will remain neutral.
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Booking Interpreters -

Interpreters are in short supply so it is best to book as early as possible.

When you contact us to request an interpreter we will need to know:

- Date
- Time
- Duration of event
- Venue
- Type of event

We may ask you to send us some information about the event so the interpreter can prepare in advance.

If you are having an open event and are not sure if deaf people will be attending it is always best to book an interpreter.

Part of Coventry and Warwickshire Association for the Deaf Registered Charity Number 218005

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How to work with a Sign Language Interpreter

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