

FAQs FOR THE DEAF (LCD) REGULATIVE CODE

FAQ for American Sign Language Interpreters Working in Louisiana: Minimum qualification and registration requirements

Overview

Per [Act 128](#) of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session, amendments were made to the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf (LCD) authorizing statute, [RS 46:2351-2354](#) in order to modernize the overall purpose of LCD's programs and services. This included changes to how LCD is involved with American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters working in Louisiana. The new law requires LCD to establish and provide oversight of an Interpreter Registry, which includes defining the minimum qualification standards for registration of all interpreters working in the State of Louisiana.

WHO WILL BE IMPACTED BY THE CHANGES TO THE STATUE?

All ASL Interpreters currently working, or who desire to work, in the State of Louisiana will be required to adhere to the registration requirements and minimum standards created by LCD. This includes interpreters working in Education and Court settings, previously under the purview of the Louisiana Department of Education and Louisiana Supreme Court, respectively.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE INTERPRETER AD HOC COMMITTEE?

The purpose of the Interpreter Ad Hoc committee is to inform and draft the minimum qualification standards for sign language interpreters working in education and court settings only.

The Interpreter Ad Hoc committee is charged to:

- Define the minimum qualifications/rules and regulations for sign language interpreters working in educational and court settings.
- To propose the new standards for interpreters working in education and court settings to the LCD Board of Commissioners for review.
- Upon LCD Board of Commissioner approval, these standards will be provided by LCD to the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the Louisiana Supreme Court for review.

WHAT ARE THE PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INTERPRETER MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS?

The minimum standards requirements for interpreters working in education and court settings are not yet complete, but are currently being drafted by the LCD Ad Hoc Committee. These recommendations will include information related to minimum standards requirements, registration requirements and policies such as applicable fees, grievances, repeals, denials, etc. of registration.

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WHEN DO THE NEW STANDARDS FOR INTERPRETERS WORKING IN EDUCATION AND COURT SETTINGS BEGIN?

The minimum standards for interpreters working in Education and Court settings will go into effect on a date set forth by the Interpreter Ad Hoc Committee group. All detailed information will be announced by LCD in advance of any new requirements.

WHAT WILL THE LCD INTERPRETER REGISTRY BE USED FOR? AND DO I HAVE TO BE LISTED ON THE LCD INTERPRETER REGISTRY TO WORK?

The Interpreter Registry will include a list of all “Registered Interpreters” eligibility status to work in the state of Louisiana, based on adherence to all qualification standards. This includes interpreters working in Education and Court settings. Interpreters must submit documentation verifying they have met the minimum qualifications set forth by LCD in order to be listed on the Interpreter Registry. Eventually, all working sign language interpreters (generalists, educational, court and etc.) in the state of Louisiana must be listed on the registry in order to work.

Once the new rules and regulations go into effect, the Interpreter Registry will reflect the new requirements for sign language interpreters to register.

THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IS CURRENTLY FOCUSED ON STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION AND COURT SETTINGS. WHAT ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE?

LCD intends to create a formal Interpreter Credentialing Board via legislation in the Spring of 2024. This body will be responsible for writing the minimum standard qualification requirements for interpreters working in community and otherwise general settings. This work is anticipated to begin in Fall of 2024. Note: this body will also be responsible for monitoring adherence to applicable rules and laws of all interpreters, hearing grievances, and other occupational compliance requirements.

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT NEXT?

As work begins on developing the Interpreter Registry requirements and minimum standards qualifications, Interpreters will:

- 1.Receiving ongoing communication and updates from the Louisiana Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (LRID) and LCD regarding Interpreter minimum standards
- 2.Receive an invitation to Town Hall/Public Forum hosted in collaboration with LRID prior to the end of 2023 to further discuss the recommended minimum standards and registration process for interpreters working in education and court settings.

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WHAT WILL LCD BE DOING TO SUPPORT INTERPRETERS TO MEET THE MINIMUM STANDARD QUALIFICATIONS?

LCD and the Interpreter Ad Hoc committee recognizes there are Interpreters that may not meet the new standard requirements being proposed. The Interpreter Ad Hoc committee will take this into consideration when proposing changes to the requirements and when recommending the effective date.

To support current and future interpreters in achieving the minimum standard qualifications, LCD will:

- Develop and implement an on-going Statewide Mentorship Program to provide a pathway for sign language interpreters working in the state of Louisiana to acquire the fundamental skills to meet and maintain the minimum qualifications. LCD hopes to pilot this Statewide Mentorship Program by July 1, 2024. The pilot will be open first to interpreters working in educational settings;
- Develop, host and/or support professional development opportunities (workshops, trainings, webinars, etc.) for interpreters working in various settings;
- Strengthen partnerships with statewide organizations such as Louisiana Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (LRID), Louisiana Association of the Deaf (LAD), and the New Orleans Black Deaf Advocates (NOBDA);
- Strengthen partnerships with state departments such as Louisiana Department of Education, Local Education Agencies, Louisiana Department of Health, Louisiana Supreme Court, etc. to explore enhancing opportunities for interpreters working in various settings;
- Develop internship opportunities for aspiring interpreters enrolled in higher education programs;
- Assist and/or support the establishment of Interpreter Training Programs
- Provide resources for state and national opportunities for enhancing knowledge and skill.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED OR STAY INFORMED ABOUT THE WORK?

Here are a few ways Interpreters can stay up to date on the developments and implementation of the new rules and regulations for sign language interpreters and to learn how to submit questions and make comments/feedback about the new rules and regulations.

LCD Information: Contact LCD staff or Board directly at lcd@la.gov for more information.

- Attend LCD's Public Meetings, Interpreter Ad Hoc Committee meetings, and any special meetings hosted by LCD. Stay connected to LCD Meetings [here](#). Public comments can be submitted to jazmyne.lemar@la.gov in advance or attend the meeting to provide your comment.
- Follow LCD Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LCDGOV/>
- Visit LCD website at <https://ldh.la.gov/page/LCD>
- Ask additional questions you would like LCD to answer by filling out LCD's anonymous Public Input Form [here](#).

LRID Information: Attend LRID's monthly virtual board meetings

- Contact LRID Board directly at secretary@lrid.org for more information.
- Visit LRID website at <https://www.lrid.org/>
- Follow LRID Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/louisianarid/>