

DIVISION ON DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

SHERYL EMERY, DIRECTOR

Established in 1937, the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing, is a state agency. The Division is empowered to protect and assist more than 1.4 million deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing persons that reside in Michigan.

DUTIES OF THE DIVISION

- Advocate for deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing persons who encounter communication and other barriers in employment, education, public accommodation, public service, and housing.
- Work closely with public and privately funded organizations that provide developmental, educational, financial, preventative, protective, placement, recreational, rehabilitative, or health services.
- Advise and assist in formulating public policy as it pertains to the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing community.
- Advise and recommend assistive technology.
- Provide information and referral services.
- Promote new services, when necessary.
- Sponsor or co-sponsor conferences, seminars, and workshops; maintain statistics, and data pertaining to deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing persons.
- Provide technical assistance to state agencies and the public regarding communication access and laws as they pertain to deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing persons.
- Provide interpreter services to state agencies, the legislature, and the governor.
- Certify sign language interpreters and maintain a database of qualified interpreters.

Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns
Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth
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VALID INTERPRETER CARDS*

Michigan Sign Language Interpreter Registration

NATIONALLY CERTIFIED SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

This card verifies that the above named person meets qualifications to interpret in the State of Michigan Pursuant to PA 204, 1982 Amended 2007

Expiration Date:

Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth
Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Michigan Sign Language Interpreter Registration

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Michigan Sign Language Interpreter Registration

LEVEL SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETER PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

This card verifies that the above named person meets qualifications to interpret in the State of Michigan Pursuant to PA 204, 1982 Amended 2007

Expiration Date:

*Qualified to interpret ONLY in educational settings K-12

Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth
Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing

*During the transition to new performance standards, a temporary card has been issued in gray, to all interpreters required to retest prior to 2012. A sample of the temporary card can be found on the DODHH website.

Number of Copies Printed: 1,000 Total Cost: \$969.81 Cost Per Copy: \$0.97

IT'S THE LAW

Michigan Deaf Person's Interpreter Act



1982 PA 204 Amended 2007
393.503a

Interpreter required as accommodation; qualified interpreter required

If an interpreter is required as an accommodation for a deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing person under state or federal law, the interpreter shall be a qualified interpreter.

1982 PA 204 amended 2007

Mandates that only “qualified” interpreters may work within the state of Michigan and defines what a “qualified” interpreter is. The Act establishes standards for interpreters, empowers the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DODHH) to promulgate rules, establish standards, and collect fees, and prescribes penalties for the violation of the provision of the Act.

Qualified Interpreter

Means a person who is certified through the national Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) or certified through the state by the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing. All interpreters must register with DODHH to legally work within the state of Michigan.



PA 204 Highlights

- A database of qualified interpreters must be maintained by the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- A deaf person may NOT waive rights to a qualified interpreter.
- ALL sign language interpreters must register ANNUALLY with the Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
- An appointing authority that willfully violates the law is subject to civil fine of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$10,000.
- Any person who misrepresents self as a qualified interpreter is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment, a fine, or both.

DELEG is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids, services and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

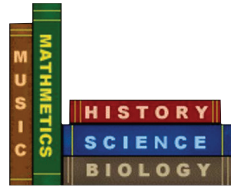
Who Must Obey This Law

Both public and private entities

When an interpreter is required as a reasonable accommodation for a deaf or deaf-blind person under state or federal law.

A few examples of appointing authorities include:

- Banks
- Colleges
- Courts
- Doctors
- Employers
- Funeral homes
- Hospitals
- Libraries
- Police
- Schools
- State and local government agencies ... many others



Sign Language Interpreters

Sign language interpreters are highly trained professionals who facilitate communication between non-signers and deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing persons. Effective communication must be established between BOTH parties in the communication dyad.

LEGAL BASIS

The legal basis for providing interpreters is found in the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the federal Americans with Disability Act of 1990; Michigan 1976 PA 220 – Persons with Disabilities Act. Each of these laws specifies that people with disabilities have a right to full and equal communication access and participation.

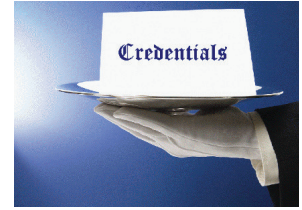
EFFECTIVE DATES

June 29, 2007 for interpreters. Penalties for appointing authorities begin when promulgated rules become effective.



Verifying Credentials

DODHH maintains an online interpreter directory. Every qualified interpreter in the state of Michigan is required to register.



The interpreter’s name, expiration date and credentials are posted in the directory. In addition the interpreter is issued a registration card. The card identifies the interpreter, the current credentials held, and expiration date. The reverse side of the card shows the Great Seal of Michigan. Only cards with the Great Seal are valid.

If an interpreter is unable to verify registration by presenting a current card please check the database or call DODHH. We will be glad to check for you. Appointing authorities are not obligated to pay unqualified individuals that misrepresent their credentials.

Filing a Complaint

A complaint must be filed within 120 calendar days of the alleged violation.

All complaints must be signed and witnessed.

A complaint form is located on the DODHH website.

The form may only be used to file a complaint against an unqualified interpreter and/or appointing authority.

After the complaint form has been verified with DODHH and notification served to the interpreter you must take the form to the local police station where the alleged violation occurred. Anonymous complaints may not be filed. DODHH will not disclose the name of the complainant except to law enforcement personnel.

EXEMPTIONS

Situations that do not require reasonable accommodations under state and federal laws. Example: conversations between a group of friends, some religious settings, during a federal, state, or local government declared emergency until a qualified interpreter can be obtained.