

# Leading the Way

## **The Center for Hearing & Deaf Services, Inc.**

(HDS), began in 1920 as the League for the Hard of Hearing. Its primary goal, was to provide social activities for people with hearing loss. From these modest beginnings, HDS has evolved into our region's only comprehensive service center for individuals who are culturally deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing, and their friends and families.



Our mission is to provide a diverse and affordable program of quality diagnostic, rehabilitative and supportive services to meet the unique challenges of children and

adults who are deaf and hard of hearing and to serve as an information and referral source for this population and the general public.

The vision of HDS staff is to be caring professionals, serving persons who are deaf or hard of hearing with excellence, dignity, and trust.

## **Leading the Way...**

- HDS offered the first Chemical Dependency Program in the tri-state area for people who are deaf or hard of hearing
- the region's only Assistive Listening and Signaling Device Demonstration and Sale Center
- a Deaf Youth Program to provide activities for youth who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families
- a Hearing Aid Recycling Program
- Sign-A-Thon, the premier sign language awareness event in the Pittsburgh area.



**Center for Hearing and Deaf Services**  
voice/tty 412.281.1375 • [www.hdscenter.org](http://www.hdscenter.org)  
1945 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219



# Center for Hearing & Deaf Services

## Interpreting Service Program



Specializing in services  
for individuals with  
communication disabilities

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# How We Can Help

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## The need to communicate with each other is vital.

If a person happens to be deaf, that need doesn't change. Clearly, complete and accurate understanding of information is paramount. Many deaf people rely on a manual language, which has its own unique grammatical structure and various forms. Since sign language is a primary method of communicating, individuals who are deaf may not be skilled in their second language, English. Therefore, using sign language interpreters allows for greater access to communication for many deaf people.

## WHAT IS AN INTERPRETER?

Professional interpreters bridge the communication barrier between hearing and deaf persons by conveying the purpose, thought, and spirit of the message in a consumer's preferred mode of communication—from oral transliterating to American Sign Language. Additionally the interpreter maintains strict confidentiality and complies with the Code of Professional Conduct of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID).

Interpreters work in many settings including:

- Legal
- Business
- Training
- Mental Health
- Medical
- Educational
- Meetings
- Interviews

## WHY SHOULD YOU SCHEDULE AN INTERPRETER?

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind the right to accessible communication. In many situations this calls for the appropriate use of qualified interpreters to facilitate interactions between persons with a hearing loss and hearing persons. The

ADA also mandates that public or private entities are responsible for providing this accessibility.

## HOW DO YOU SCHEDULE AN HDS INTERPRETER?

When scheduling an interpreter, the following information must be provided for EACH request.

- Dates, times (start and end), and locations
- Name and phone number of contact person responsible for payment
- Names of deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind consumers
- Consumer's choice of interpreters
- Directions to assignments and parking information
- Agendas, presentations, and any other information that would help the interpreter prepare

## To schedule an HDS interpreter:

- Call 412-281-1375 (Voice/TTY)
- Fax 412-281-6564
- Email to [interpret@hdscenter.org](mailto:interpret@hdscenter.org)
- Online at [www.hdscenter.org](http://www.hdscenter.org)
- Video Phone numbers available on the HDS website

## USING INTERPRETER SERVICES...

- The interpreter is responsible to interpret everything spoken or signed.
- Please enforce one person speaking or signing at a time.
- Speak in a natural tone of voice and a normal rate of speed.
- Speak directly to the deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind individual—not to the interpreter.

## CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) have set forth principles of ethical behaviors to protect and guide the interpreter/transliterators, the consumers, and the profession. HDS interpreters follow this code to ensure the highest standard of professionalism and trust. **To access the full version of the NAD-RID Code of Professional Conduct, visit [www.rid.org/ethics/code/](http://www.rid.org/ethics/code/).**



**LIVE UNITED™** 

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The Center for Hearing & Deaf Services, Inc. does not discriminate in its admission or employment policies on the basis of gender, ethnic origin, age, religion, sexual orientation or disability.

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