

## Access to closed AA meetings for AA members who need an interpreter

To: Closed groups/meetings.  
From: Access Committee \_\_\_\_\_  
Subject: Non-AA professional interpreters at closed groups/meetings

### REQUEST:

- Request all closed groups/meetings to take a group conscience to see if their group is willing to allow a non-AA certified/professional interpreter for Deaf AA members to attend their closed meetings. Note: This does NOT mean that the group would be responsible to pay the interpreter.
- Share information from the GSO "Serving Alcoholics with Special/Access Needs Service Piece (F-107) AA Guidelines ([MG-13](#)) "[Carrying the Message to the Deaf Alcoholic](#)" and (MG-16) "Serving Alcoholics With Special Needs".
- Inform the group of the interpreter code of ethics.
- Add one of the meeting codes below:
  - (SIW) non-AA sign language interpreter welcome
  - (CSI) closed to non-AA sign language interpreter
- Inform the Access Committee, DCM, Webmaster, and meeting schedule person.
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

### Intent/Purpose:

To get the pre-approval process taken care of and to make it clear in the schedule what the group conscience is for each closed meeting.

It is often very difficult for the Deaf alcoholic to attend a closed AA meeting. While a Deaf member may prefer to go to a closed meeting to better discuss their alcohol problem, the issue of whether the group will allow a non-AA professional interpreter to attend must be addressed. If a Deaf member "just shows up" with their interpreter at a closed meeting and asks the group if they can attend, it can be very awkward while the group takes a group conscience. In some cases there are objections to the interpreter being there, and even if the group conscience votes to have the Deaf member stay with their interpreter, the feeling is NOT at all one of being welcomed. If the group votes 'no', it's even worse! Once again, the Deaf alcoholic encounters a unique problem that most people in AA have never even thought of.

A suggested solution for this particular problem is to inform the groups of this dilemma, and ask groups who hold closed meetings to take a group conscience on whether or not they will allow a non-AA professional interpreter at their meeting. In this way we can build a list of closed meetings where Deaf alcoholics and their interpreters can attend without seeking special permission in advance.

### Goal

To welcome Deaf to AA members at closed meetings and avoid rejecting any Deaf individual who is seeking sobriety based on the need of a sign language interpreter.

## **RID Interpreter Code of Ethics**

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. has set forth the following principles of ethical behavior to protect and guide interpreters and transliterators and hearing and deaf consumers. Underlying these principles is the desire to insure for all the right to communicate.

- ❑ **This Code of Ethics applies to all members of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. and to all certified non-members.**
- ❑ **Interpreters/translitterators shall keep all assignment-related information strictly confidential.**
- ❑ Interpreters/translitterators shall render the message faithfully, always conveying the content and spirit of the speaker using language most readily understood by the person(s) whom they serve.
- ❑ Interpreters/translitterators shall not counsel, advise or interject personal opinions.
- ❑ Interpreters/translitterators shall accept assignments using discretion with regard to skill, setting, and the consumers involved.
- ❑ Interpreters/translitterators shall request compensation for services in a professional and judicious manner.
- ❑ Interpreters/translitterators shall function in a manner appropriate to the situation.
- ❑ Interpreters/translitterators shall strive to further knowledge and skills through participation in workshops, professional meetings, interaction with professional colleagues, and reading of current literature in the field.
- ❑ Interpreters/translitterators, by virtue of membership or certification by the RID, Inc., shall strive to maintain high professional standards in compliance with the Code of Ethics.

## **NAD Interpreter Code of Ethics**

- ❑ **All information in any interpreting assignment is to be kept in strictest confidence.**
- ❑ Interpreting services shall always be competent, impartial and professional.
- ❑ Messages shall be rendered faithfully, always conveying the content and spirit of the communicator, and professional judgment should be exercised in assessing whether communication is being understood.
- ❑ In accepting assignments, discretion based on skill, setting, and the consumers involved must be used.
- ❑ Counseling or interjecting personal opinion is never permitted.
- ❑ Information on the role and appropriate use of interpreting services shall be provided to the consumers when necessary.
- ❑ Information on available resources as appropriate should be provided.
- ❑ Compensation for services should be pursued in a professional manner.
- ❑ Respect of and for the deaf person's rights must always be evident.
- ❑ Only the highest professional standards, as promulgated by the NAD, shall be pursued.