

## ***Glossary***

**American Sign Language (ASL)** – a language whose medium is visual rather than aural. Like any other language, ASL has its own vocabulary, idioms, grammar, and syntax-different from English. The elements of this language (the individual signs) consist of the handshape, position, movement, and orientation of the hands to the body and each other. ASL also uses space, direction and speed of movements, and facial expression to help convey meaning.

**Oral** – a mode of communication utilizing speech, speech-reading and residual hearing as a primary means of communication and using situational and culturally appropriate gestures, without the use of sign language.

**Pidgin Sign English (PSE)** – When the vocabulary of ASL and finger-spelled words are presented in English word order, a “pidgin” results. Pidgin Sign English is neither strictly English or ASL, but combines elements of both.

**Preferred Mode of Communication** – the method of communication that the deaf or hard-of-hearing individual is most expressive and comfortable in using. This may be American Sign Language, a manual form of English, writing, speaking, or any other mode of communication.

**Deaf Interpreter** – a deaf or hard-of-hearing individual, who is able to assist in providing an accurate interpretation between standard sign language and variants of sign language (including home signs) by acting as an intermediary between a deaf or hard-of-hearing person and qualified interpreter/transliterator. RID Certified Deaf Interpreter – Provisional (CDI-P) is often used for this purpose.

**Certified Interpreter/Transliterator** – a sign language, oral, or cued speech interpreter/transliterator who was awarded certification by demonstrating an advanced level of expressive and receptive skills. Certified interpreters/transliterators have thorough knowledge of at least one of the codes of ethics on interpreting and have been awarded certification by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), National Association of the Deaf (NAD), or the Training, Evaluation and Certification Unit (cued speech) and has maintained that certification in good standing.

**State Screened Interpreter** – a sign language interpreter who was awarded state screening by demonstrating a limited level of expressive and receptive skills. State screened interpreters have limited knowledge of at least one of the codes of ethics and have been awarded a level of state screening to help them identify their strengths and weaknesses and help them assess whether they are ready to take a national evaluation.