



Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

Why should my interpreter be certified by and/ or a member of RID?

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. is the sole nationally-recognized certifying body of professional American Sign Language interpreters and transliterators. All members of RID, certified or not, are expected to comply with the NAD-RID Code of Professional Conduct¹ and are subject to our Ethical Practices System² where a consumer or colleague may file a grievance against any member who does not comply with the CPC.

What is a “Code of Professional Conduct”?

A Code of Professional Conduct (CPC) is a holistic guide for what behaviors a professional practitioner *should* embody and demonstrate. A CPC is usually established by the profession’s leading association or organization and outlines standards that their practitioners are expected to follow. RID’s Code of Professional Conduct was co-authored with the National Association of the Deaf and is referred to as the “NAD-RID Code of Professional Conduct.” This collaboration is unique in that it ensures both the consumer and practitioner’s perspective are included into the CPC standards.

What is an “Ethical Practices System”?

A reputable professional certification association should also have a system of accountability, or grievance system, to uphold their code of professional conduct. At RID, our system is called the Ethical Practices System (EPS). If a member of RID violates any tenet of the CPC, a grievance can be filed against that person and RID’s EPS department will conduct an investigation. If an RID member is found to be in violation of the CPC, they will be held accountable. Results of EPS investigations can be, but are not limited to, suspension of certification and membership, mandatory mentorship, and even permanent revocation of certification and/ or membership.

Interpreters who are not members of RID cannot be subject to the EPS. If an interpreter who is not a member of RID violates the CPC they cannot be held accountable by the EPS.

There are different types of members of RID. What’re the differences?

When you hire an RID “Certified Member” you can have confidence knowing that the individual has demonstrated their knowledge, skills, and abilities to meet a minimum standard of competency in order to earn that certification. “Associate Members” of RID are, traditionally, practicing interpreters but have not yet attained certification³. “Student Members” are still

¹<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Aascds%3AUS%3A154885ef-2f50-3664-ba5e-f9654c395ddf&viewer%21megaVerb=group-discover>

² RID EPS information: <https://rid.org/programs/ethics/>

³ Some Associate Members may be previously certified and had their certifications revoked due to noncompliance with RID’s Certification Maintenance Program.



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learning and “Supporting Members” are individuals who believe in RID’s mission; neither Student nor Supporting members should be interpreting in real-world situations. Members of RID demonstrate their commitment to the communities we serve by adhering to the CPC at all times.

How do I verify if my interpreter is certified by RID and/ or a member?

ALL members of RID, when asked, must provide evidence of their certification or membership status. RID uses Credly⁴, a digital verification system of professional credentials. When asked, an RID member can share their digital badge. This can be clicked on and real-time information regarding their certification and membership status will be displayed! RID transitioned to Credly and real-time verification in 2022 as a way to enhance protection to the communities we serve by preventing bad actors from portraying themselves as RID members or holding RID certification. This also enhances the protection of the integrity of RID’s certification system. You can also use RID’s searchable registry on our website, which functions as a primary-source verification database, or give our office a call!

How does all of this benefit you?

Consumers of ASL interpretation should not have to worry about the skills and qualifications of the practitioner rendering services. However, RID and the communities we serve are aware of people who accept interpreting assignments they are not qualified for, as well as people who are not professional or ethical working and are representing themselves as professional interpreters. Many times, these bad actors **are not** members of RID and if a complaint is filed against them in the EPS we are not able to hold them accountable. When you ensure that your interpreter is a member of RID- you can have **confidence** and **trust** that the individual **must** follow the RID-NAD CPC and is subject to RID’s EPS.

⁴For more information on RID’s use of Credly: <https://rid.org/certification/digital-credentials/>