

Iowa Department of Education

Sign Language Interpreter Licensure Information

January 2017

Audience: Administrators (AEA/LEA); IEP Teams, including Parents; Interpreters in PK-12 Settings

Interpreter Licensure

Since July 1, 2005, every person providing sign language interpreting or transliterating services in Iowa shall be licensed. It is the responsibility of each interpreter to know the licensing requirements and subsequent updates. [The Board of Sign Language Interpreters & Translitterators](#)

Interpreting with an Inactive License

A licensee whose license is inactive continues to hold the privilege of licensure in Iowa, but may not practice as an interpreter in Iowa until the license is reactivated. A licensee who practices as an interpreter in the state of Iowa with an inactive license may be subject to disciplinary action by the board, injunctive action pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.83, criminal sanctions pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.86, and other available legal remedies (IAC 361.5(7)).

Licensure by Examination Verification

Any sign language interpreter who takes the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) and scores 3.5 or higher qualifies for 'licensure by examination' in Iowa. An interpreter may also qualify to be licensed by examination by passing one of the exams listed in Chapter 361 on the website.

The Department of Public Health, Bureau of Professional Licensure, requires that the testing service (for the EIPA, that is Boys Town National Research Hospital) send the results directly to the licensing board. You cannot make a copy of your results and send it to the board. An 'authorizing release' is located on the following link

<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure/SignLanguageInterpretersandTranslitterators.aspx?pg=Links>. Once you receive a score of 3.5 or higher on the EIPA, send the completed 'authorizing release' to Boys Town who will send an official copy of your results to the Iowa Board of Sign Language Interpreters and Translitterators. Fulfilling these requirements is the interpreter's responsibility.

CEUs for Interpreters

Beginning July 1, 2009 forward, all license holders are required to obtain 40 hours of continuing education prior to license renewal (every two years), including the first renewal.