

# INTERPRETER SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH IDD AND THEIR FAMILIES

Interpreter Services provide face-to-face support for an individual or their family to effectively create service plans and IEPs, address strengths and needs, and integrate more fully with community-based activities, employment, and education.

**Interpreter Services can be utilized for American Sign Language (ASL) or other spoken languages.**

## UNDER 21

### PERFORMCARE

To receive Interpreter Services through PerformCare, the family must meet the following criteria:

- The youth has Care Management Organization services (CMO) or Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS).
- The youth or caregiver does not speak or comprehend English; or is hearing impaired.
- No natural support or language line is available.
- The parent/guardian must consent to the service.
- The youth must be a resident of New Jersey.

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

Interpreter Services can be attained as related services in IEPs for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. This would include any school-sponsored activities or events, such as:

- Sports
- Clubs
- Plays/assemblies
- Field trips
- Lunch/recess

School districts must provide an interpreter for parents at IEP meetings, and explain any evaluations or documents in the parent's preferred language.

## OVER 21

### DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DDD)

Interpreter Services are available through the Supports Program and Community Care Program. The need for Interpreter Services is identified through the New Jersey Comprehensive Assessment Tool (NJCAT) and the Person-Centered Planning Tool (PCPT).

Staff providing Sign Language Interpreter Services must pass the NJ Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing screening, or be certified by the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

### DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES (DVRS)

DVRS provides employment services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing in all 21 NJ counties. Interpreters are available to assist with:

- Job readiness skills
- Vocational assessments
- Job coaching and exploration
- Transition services

DVRS also employs bilingual vocational counselors, contracts with supported employment agencies that offer bilingual job coaching, and provides interpretation services for communication between DVRS clients and staff.





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