

Glossary

ASL: American Sign Language. The native language of Deaf people in the United States and Canada.

CODA: Child of Deaf adults (hearing).

CTD: Cumulative Trauma Disorders such as Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and Repetitive Motion Injury (RMI).

deaf: A moderate to severe degree of hearing loss.

Deaf: Describes a cultural condition. Those deaf people who are members of the Deaf community, utilizing ASL as their primary language. A group of people with shared experiences, mores, and cultural values rooted in Deaf heritage and ASL.

Hard of Hearing: A mild to moderate hearing loss. Can be a cultural descriptor of people who identify with either Hearing or Deaf culture.

Hearing Impaired: The term invented by hearing people to label Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people due to a misunderstanding. The word "deaf" has been seen by the hearing world as an insult and not "politically correct", so this term was invented. Hearing people who use this term are not aware that Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people do not use this term.

Interpret: To take a message from one (source) language, analyze it and convey it in another (target) language.

NAD: The National Association of the Deaf. A national level organization established by and for Deaf people. In addition to providing for the cultural needs of Deaf people, it offers certificate training for interpreters.

Relay Interpreter: A Deaf individual who has been trained in the profession of interpreting. Such individuals are hired to work in conjunction with a hearing professional interpreter when assignments involve deaf individuals who may have minimal language skill, mental illness, or culturally intensive issues. After passing the certification tests, the term Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) is used.

RID: The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. The national level professional organization for interpreters. They maintain a list of members, a professional Code of Ethics, provide training and workshops, and provide testing for certification.

Signer: A hearing person who has learned ASL or one of the invented codes of signing, but who has not been educated to function as an interpreter.

Translate: To interpret from one language to another on paper. Books are *translated*, conversations are *interpreted*.

Transliterate: To take a message in a language, analyze it and convey it in a different code of the same language (e.g. from spoken English to Signed English).