# Talking with Deaf People

A Few Basic Signs to welcome someone to your group.

How to use an ASL interpreter on the phone and at your events

# Welcoming someone with ASL

Simple signs for our peer support group

We can learn together.

Here are 2 websites that teach ASL

https://www.lifeprint.com/

https://www.signasl.org/



# A welcoming online group

Ask what helps the person communicate.

Keep your face and hands in view.

Take turns. Give people time.



# Hello

A friendly greeting

Watch first.

Then try a small wave.



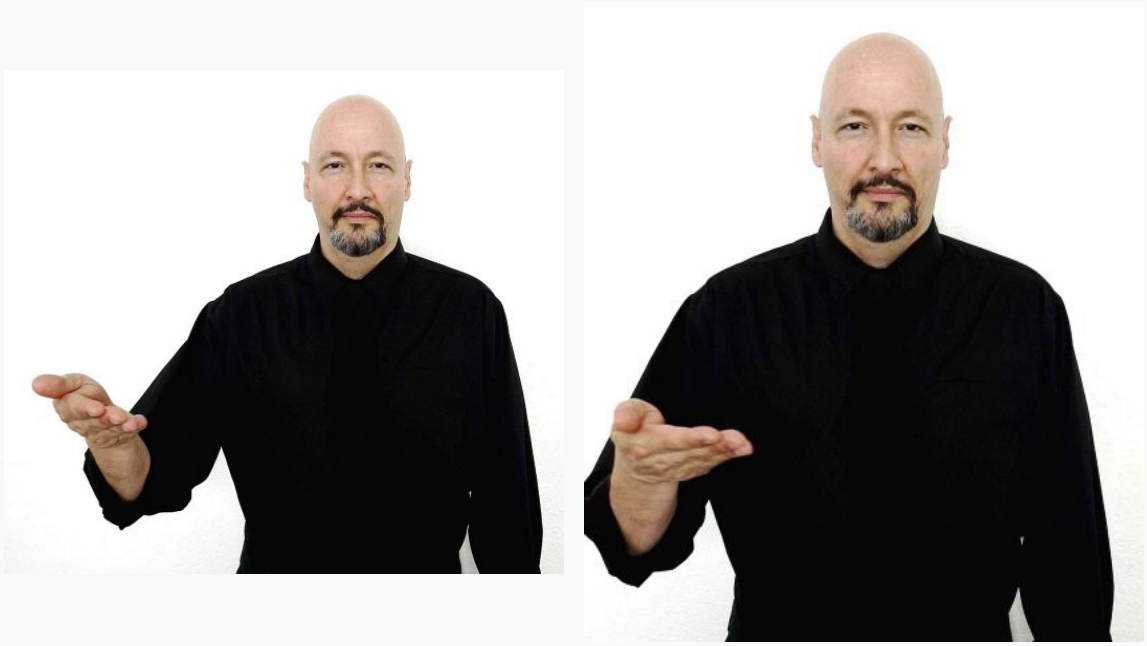
**Watch Hello**

# Welcome

Come join us!

Palm up.

Bring your hand toward you.



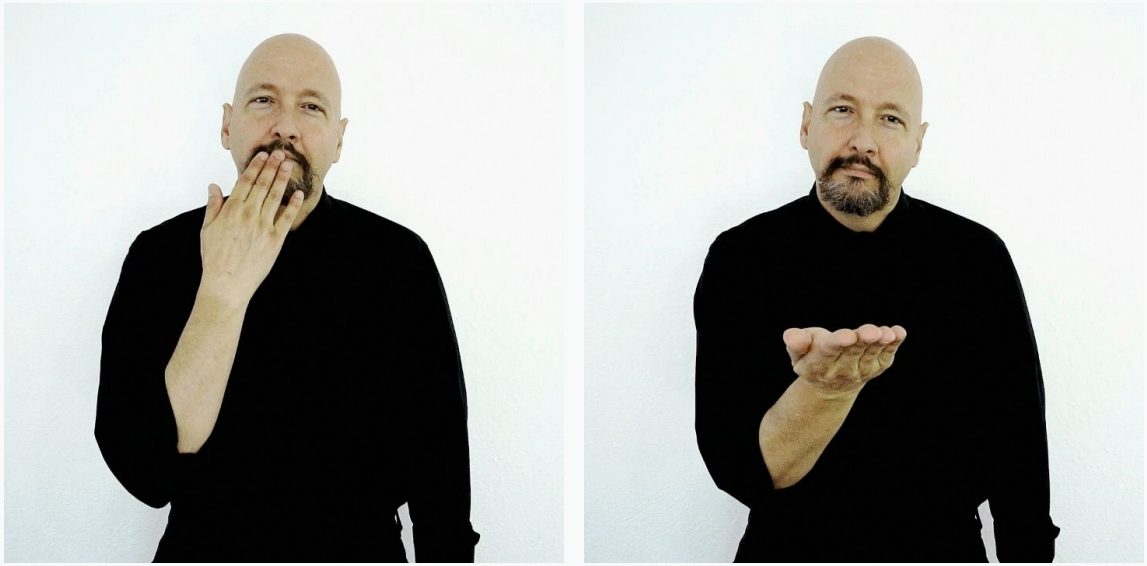
Watch Welcome

# Thank you

A way to show thanks

Start near your chin.

Move your flat hand forward.



Watch Thank you

# Please

A sign we can practice

Flat hand on your chest.

Move it in a small circle.



**Watch Please**

# Help

Support for each other

Thumb up on a flat palm.

Lift both hands together.



**Watch Help**

# Again

Show me one more time.

Bend one hand.

Touch its fingertips to your other palm.



Watch Again

# Practice welcoming a person

Pretend someone is joining our group.

Greet them with HELLO.

Invite them with WELCOME.

Use THANK YOU when they share.



# One sign to remember

Choose a sign you want to keep practicing.

Use your practice sheet.

Ask each person what helps them join in.



# Communicating with Deaf People

1

**Phone calls**

How to call a Deaf person with an interpreter

2

**Online events**

How to get an interpreter for Zoom meetings

3

**In-person events**

How to get an interpreter for meetings in a room

# Words to know

| | |
|---|---|
| **Deaf** | A person who does not hear, or hears very little. Many Deaf people use sign language. |
| **ASL** | American Sign Language. A language you use with your hands, face, and body. |
| **Interpreter** | A person who changes your spoken words into ASL. They also change ASL into spoken words. |

# Deaf people belong in our groups too.

An interpreter makes sure everyone can talk, listen, and be part of the group.

Part 1

# Phone calls

How to call a Deaf person who uses ASL

# Video Relay Service (VRS)

Many Deaf people use a video phone. An interpreter joins the call to help you talk.




**It is free for you and the Deaf person.**

# How to make the call

1. **Dial**
   Call the Deaf person's phone number, like normal.

2. **Hear the interpreter**
   An interpreter answers first. They say who they are.

3. **Talk**
   Talk to the Deaf person, just like any phone call.

4. **Say goodbye**
   Say "goodbye" when you are done. Then hang up.

# Tips for a good call

## Do say

**"How are you?"**

Talk right to the Deaf person.

## Don't say

**"Ask her how she is."**

The interpreter is not part of the talk.

**Go slow.** Use short sentences.

**Wait.** Signing takes a few seconds.

**Be patient.** Quiet time is normal.

# Other ways to talk




**Dial 711** to reach a Deaf person who uses text or captions on their phone.

**Not sure?** Ask the Deaf person how they like to talk. Video phone? Text? Email?

Part 2

# Hiring an interpreter

For your online and in-person events

# Who to call in Vermont

## Vancro Integrated Interpreting Services

They find ASL interpreters for people.

**https://vancroiis.com/**

You can also ask the agency or organization that supports your group. They may help you set it up.

# How to ask for an interpreter

1. **Ask early**
   Call 2 weeks or more before your event.

2. **Share the details**
   Date, time, how long, and what it is about.

3. **Say where**
   Online? Give the link. In person? Give the address.

4. **Send your plan**
   Share the agenda, names, and slides ahead of time.

# Ask what kind of help you need

### Long meetings

Interpreting is hard work. A long meeting may need 2 interpreters who take turns.

### Deaf Interpreter

A Deaf Interpreter is a Deaf person who interprets. They can help when someone needs signs explained in a different way.

**Tip:** Ask the Deaf person what works best for them.

# Who pays?

Interpreters for events cost money. The Deaf person should **not** have to pay.

Your organization pays. Put the cost for interpreters in your budget for your event.

Ask the interpreting service: **"How much will it cost?"**

# At online events

### Send the link early

Give the interpreter the link a few days before.

### Keep them on screen

The Deaf person can "pin" the interpreter so they stay big.

### One at a time

Only one person talks at a time.

### Say your name

Say your name before you talk.

# At in-person events

### Save a good seat

The Deaf person needs to see the interpreter and the speaker.

### Good light

Make sure the interpreter's hands and face are easy to see.

### One at a time

Only one person talks at a time.

### Take breaks

Breaks help everyone, including the interpreter.

# Let's review

| | |
|---|---|
| **Phone calls** | Dial the Deaf person's number. An interpreter joins. It's free. |
| **Events** | Ask for an interpreter 2 weeks or more ahead. |
| **Always** | Talk right to the Deaf person. Ask what works best for them. |