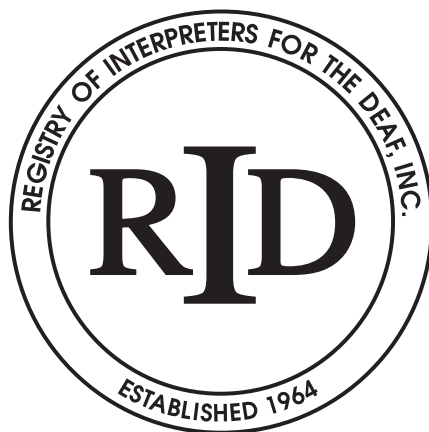


CERTIFIED DEAF INTERPRETER (CDI) EXAMINATION INFORMATION BULLETIN

REGISTRY OF INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF



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Mission Statement

It is the mission of the RID, Inc. to provide international, national, regional, state, and local forums and an organizational structure for the continued growth and development of the professions of interpretation and transliteration of American Sign Language and English.

Philosophy Statement

The philosophy of RID is that excellence in the delivery of interpretation and transliteration services among people who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing and people who are hearing will ensure effective communication. As the professional association for interpreters and transliterators, the RID serves as an essential arena for its members in their pursuit of excellence.

Non-discrimination Statement

The RID shall not discriminate in matters of certification testing or membership on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, ethnicity, hearing status, national origin, race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

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Policies and Procedures outlined in this edition take precedence over previous editions. RID reserves the right to modify, change or restate policy at any time.

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The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) is the national, professional, membership association dedicated to the professional development of interpreters and transliterators. Founded in 1964, RID has played an active role in establishing a national standard of quality for interpreters and transliterators, encouraging the growth of the profession, educating the public about the vital role of interpreters and transliterators, and ensuring equal opportunity and access for all individuals.

RID fulfills its primary mission of encouraging the professional development of interpreters and transliterators by:

- Awarding certification to interpreters and transliterators who successfully pass an evaluation program;
- Mandating a Certification Maintenance Program for professional development;
- Operating the national Ethical Practices System;
- Maintaining a National Registry of Certified Interpreters/Membership Directory;
- Publishing a monthly newsletter; The VIEWS
- Providing career information;
- Heightening public awareness about the profession;
- Fostering the development of affiliate chapters to address concerns at the local and state levels;
- Maintaining RID Publications;
- Offering scholarships and awards; and
- Sponsoring a Biennial Convention.

Test Development Consultants

Columbia Assessment Services, Inc.

Columbia Assessment Services, Inc. (CAS) is a testing company formed by a group of nationally-respected test developers/psychometricians. The members of the CAS team come from some of the largest testing companies in America, bringing with them extensive experience in the development and administration of virtually every type of certification and licensure examination on state, national, and international levels. CAS has conducted numerous job analysis and role delineation studies for national and international clients.

Test Development Committee

Certified Deaf Interpreter Task Force Members (1992 – 1995)

Mel Carter (CA), Steven Collins, Chair (VA), Ron Coffey (MD) (deceased), Val Dively (MD), Stephen Kimble (WA), Jo Anna Liedel (OH), Mary McGuire (NH), Holly Roth (MD), Phyllis Wilcox (NM)

Certified Deaf Interpreter Task Force Members (1999 to present)

Jimmy Beldon (MN), Leslie Greer (NY), Carole Lazorisak, Chair 2001 to present (NY), Mark Morrison (NJ), Debbie Peterson (WA), Eric Scheir (WA), Trudy Suggs, Chair 1999-2001 (NJ), Ann Topliff (CO), Reggie Egnatovitch, Certification Council Representative (PA).

History and Background

One of the first formal tasks which RID set for itself in 1964 was the design and implementation of a national certification system to test the skills, ethics, and professional behavior of practitioners. The Association initiated and has maintained a testing and certification system in support of its mission to further the growth and development of the profession of interpretation and transliteration of American Sign Language and English.

Since 1972, RID has offered certificates in general sign language interpreting as well as specialist certificates. Among those was the Reverse Skills Certificate (RSC) primarily awarded to Deaf interpreters.

In 1989, members voted “that a generalist Certificate of Relay Interpreting be established for Deaf persons”. Development began in 1992 for what later became known as the Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) exam.

The CDI test was developed by the CDI Task Force in conjunction with, and under the guidance of, Columbia Assessment Services (CAS) of Research Triangle, North Carolina. CAS is a research and development firm that serves certification bodies by planning, developing, and administering assessment procedures and programs designed to measure professional competence.

The CDI Certification Task Force was comprised of certified interpreters, representing diverse geographic, educational, and experiential backgrounds.

CDI Certification requires the successful completion of three steps: documentation of eligibility, a written test (English or ASL version), and a performance test. Successful completion of each step is required before entering the next step.

The CDI written exam is based on the Test Specifications developed from a National Job Analysis of the profession of Deaf interpreting. The CDI Task Force, in conjunction with the RID Psychometrician, developed a survey instrument of the perceived knowledge and skills required of the beginning Deaf interpreter. This videotape survey was distributed to individuals representing diverse ethnic and geographic distribution across the United States. An outline of the test content, developed from these specifications is included in Appendix D.

RID maintains sole proprietorship of the CDI test. RID administers the test nationally according to test administration procedures delineated by the RID National Testing System Policies and Procedures and in accordance with widely accepted test administration guidelines. The CDI test has been designed to comply with the American Psychological Association joint technical standards on testing in addition to other recognized testing industry standards.

About the Test

The written test was composed, field-tested and revised in accordance with generally accepted test development procedures. It is also monitored for validity and reliability.

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A modified Angoff study was conducted according to appropriate psychometric procedures to determine a passing score for the CDI written test.

An ongoing psychometric analysis is performed on the written and performance tests to assure that both remain valid and reliable instruments for measuring interpreters abilities.

Raters for the CDI performance test are trained to identify skills that meet or exceed the minimum standards.

Psychometric procedures have been established to monitor rater reliability.

Mechanisms are in place so that all candidates are treated fairly and without regard to age, color, creed, disability, ethnicity, hearing status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation.

Raters

The selection and training of raters for the performance test are conducted in accordance with the criteria determined by the Certification Council. Raters represent diverse geographic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds. They are agents of the Association and are therefore compensated for their services.

Local Test Administrators (LTAs)

LTAs are RID certified members in good standing (92.02) who are hired as agents of the Association. The LTA is bound by a contract which includes clear admonitions about the safekeeping of all materials and the penalties which may ensue should the contract be breached. LTAs are trained in RID test administration protocol.

Test Dates and Sites

Regional Testing Centers (RTCs) have been established around the country. These sites are under contract and are evaluated periodically. Each RTC has a site coordinator who oversees the logistics of the testing room facilities and equipment.

The CDI written English version of the test is conducted following the standard national administration calendar. Locations for these exams are published in *VEWS*. The CDI ASL version is conducted at specific RTC sites. Locations for these exams are published in *VEWS*.

Performance test dates are set annually and printed in *VEWS*. The NTS department communicates with the LTAs and site coordinators to determine which dates will best meet the needs of that location. The National Office does not determine the local performance test schedule, but requires that test dates be advertised at least twice in *VEWS*.

National Office Testing

Applicants/candidates may also schedule to take the CDI written test (English or ASL version) in the National Office, by appointment, provided all associated fees are paid and all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Fees must be received in the National Office a minimum of two weeks in advance of the test to confirm the appointment. Applicants/candidates interested in testing at the National Office must contact the NTS Assistant to schedule an appointment. The National Office will not call registrants.

Supersites

Candidates may also take the CDI performance test at any RID “supersite,” approved for administering this test, by calling the contact person directly to schedule an appointment. Supersite locations and contact person information is printed in VIEWS or can be obtained by contacting the National Office. Application and payment is sent to the National Office, not the supersite.

CDI WRITTEN TEST

A. Eligibility Requirements

The CDI test is comprised of three steps:

- 1) Eligibility requirements
- 2) Written test (English or ASL version)
- 3) Performance test

An individual is required to take and pass the written English or ASL portion of the exam before taking the performance examination.

An individual interested in taking the CDI written test (English or ASL version) must satisfy all of the eligibility criteria.

- 1) Applicant must be deaf or hard of hearing (verification required).
- 2) Verification of having completed at least 8 hours of training on the role and function of a Deaf interpreter (letters must indicate date(s), location(s), and duration of training).
- 3) Verification of having completed at least 8 hours of training on the RID Code of Ethics (letter must indicate date(s), location(s), and duration of training).

Physician or audiologist verification of deafness required. Training documentation may be in the form of college transcripts, signature(s) of individual(s) offering the training session(s), certificate(s)/letter(s) of completion, or other valid documentation, and must be attached to the application.

RID reserves the right to modify the eligibility criteria of all RID certification tests.

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B. Applying for the CDI Written Test

To apply for the RID CDI written test (English or ASL version), a person must complete and send the CDI application form with payment of appropriate fees, and eligibility documentation attached, to arrive at the National Office six weeks in advance of the published test date (94.39). Applicants must note if they prefer to take the written English or ASL version of the test by indicating their choice in the appropriate box. Preference for testing location(s) (site code) must be indicated on the form. Any request for special accommodation must be noted on the application and supporting documentation attached to the application. Applicants are not considered registered for an examination until all eligibility documentation and fees have been processed in the testing department of the National Office. NTS staff will notify applicants by mail of test availability at their preferred location(s).

Individuals who join RID when they apply for the written test may pay the member rate for test fees. Member fees for testing apply to the Associate or Student categories only. One need not be a member to apply for the test; however, one of the benefits of RID membership is lower testing fees.

Applications and test fees must be received in the National Office at least six weeks prior to the preferred date for the test. (94.39)

C. Notification of Testing

Approximately four weeks prior to the written test date, applicants will receive a letter confirming the date, time, and location of the test. The name, phone number, pager, and/or cell phone number of the LTA proctoring the test will also be included. The LTA should be contacted for directions to the site only. All other questions should be directed to the National Office.

D. Declined Written Test Opportunities

Applicants for a written test must contact the National Office in writing by the noted deadline in their test notification letter if they do not plan to attend the exam. RID will schedule every applicant who sends an application to the office by the registration deadline unless notified in writing that the s/he does not intend to take the exam. Facsimile, email and regular mail submission is accepted. The applicant will then be scheduled for the next test administration. (96.07)

Failure to notify the NTS Coordinator will result in the applicant's forfeiture of all application and test fees (90.36).

E. Cancellations

Cancellations due to a documented emergency situation as outlined within RID's policy (see Appendix E) will be given special consideration. Upon receipt of documentation and

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approval by the NTS Coordinator, application and test fees will carry over to the next available test date. Notification of emergency cancellations must be made to the National Office on the business day following the documented emergency. However, if the nature of the emergency precludes the applicant from doing so, s/he must contact RID at the first available opportunity.

Individuals who have paid the application and test fees and decide that they no longer wish to take the written test will be reimbursed only their test fees. Requests for reimbursement must be made in writing to the NTS Coordinator.

Application fees for both the written and performance tests are non-refundable under any circumstance.

F. At the Site

Applicants must arrive and register at least 20 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the test. They must bring a photo ID and their confirmation letter to the test. During registration, applicants will be required to sign in, show a photo ID, verify personal information as indicated on the test roster, and sign confidentiality forms. Demographic information forms will also be available for self-disclosure.

No electronic devices are allowed in the testing room (i.e.: cell phones, pagers, tape/digital recorders, etc.).

All testing materials — test booklet, Scantron answer sheet, pencils, and note paper, if needed — will be provided by the LTA. Once an examination has begun, there is absolutely no talking, signing, gesturing or any communication permitted in the room. LTAs will collect the test booklet and answer sheet from anyone violating this rule and file a formal written report with the NTS Coordinator.

Applicants cannot mark in the test booklet. If they do, they will be assessed a fee which must be paid to RID prior to their test results being released.

Test instructions will be interpreted on videotape for the English version and CD-Rom for the ASL version.

Exams will begin and end on time. No late arrivals will be permitted.

Applicants are allowed a maximum of three hours to complete the English or ASL version of the test. The ASL version is administered on CD-Rom, with answers recorded on the Scantron form. Questions 1-50 are on the first CD and questions 51-100 are on the second CD. The applicant will notify the LTA when they have completed the first half of the test. The LTA will then set up the second CD so the applicant can complete the test.

All test-related material and the final portion of the demographics survey must be returned to the LTA before leaving.

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Comment forms will be provided for applicant feedback about the test, test administration or site conditions; these forms may be completed later and mailed to the RID National Office or completed at the site and given to the LTA.

G. Test Format

The test (written English or ASL version) consists of 100 multiple-choice questions with four answer choices covering the four domains listed below. Applicants must receive a score of 79 or better to pass the test. Applicants are encouraged to answer all questions; unanswered questions will be marked wrong. The expanded outline of the four domains can be found in Appendix D.

- I. Professional Roles and Responsibilities
- II. Preparation for Service Delivery
- III. Provision of Service
- IV. Post-Service Closure

H. Results and Retakes

The LTA is required to immediately send all test materials to the National Office after the written test session. Result notification letters are generally issued within 10 business days after the tests are received from the test site by the National Office. The letter includes a diagnostic report of the number of questions in each of the four domains of the examination the applicants answer correctly, as well as an overall number correct indicating a pass or fail score.

If the applicant does not pass the written test, s/he should send another application form and the appropriate payment in order to register for the written test retake. No application fee will be charged for a retake of a failed written test. Those failing either version of the written test must wait six months from the date of test administration (92.59) before they may retake either version of the written test.

No application fee is charged for a retake of a failed written test.

I. Candidates for CDI Certification

Applicants passing the written test are considered “Candidates for Certification” and are eligible to take the CDI performance test. The Candidate status is valid for five years from the date the applicant was notified of passing the test (the date on the notification letter). The Candidate now has five years in which to pass the performance portion of the CDI test. Failure to achieve certification within the five-year time limit will result in the loss of candidacy status. As a result, the applicant will need to retake the CDI written test. (90.01)

If a candidate has not achieved certification within five years, s/he may schedule and pay for a performance test before the expiration of candidacy status. In so doing, s/he will be granted an automatic 45-day extension of candidacy status during which time s/he must

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take the performance test. It is the candidate's responsibility to secure an available test slot at one of the RID Regional Testing Centers within the 45-day extension. (93.65)

The Certification Council will consider granting up to a one-year extension of candidacy to a person who has taken the written test and has been unable to take the performance test during the allotted five-year time frame for the following reason: *a sudden and unforeseeable traumatic, catastrophic, or incapacitating life-altering event that disrupts the life of the candidate or immediate family member for a considerable amount of time.* (98.61)

J. Requests for Hand-Scoring

Applicants may file a written request for hand scoring of their test within 30 days of the date of notification of results. Written requests must be sent via certified mail to the NTS Coordinator at the RID National Office. RID will not be held responsible for letters sent to the National Office unless sent via certified mail. There is a fee for this service. RID reviews the request for hand-scoring, re-scores the examination and reports findings to the applicant within 30 days of receipt of request.

K. Appeal Process

The Certification Council (CC) will review appeals related to the administration of the test, such as violations of proper procedure and/or deviation from National Testing System policy and will attempt to issue a response within 60 days of receipt. Appeals must be sent in writing by certified mail or videotape to the NTS Coordinator at the RID National Office. An appeal must be filed within 90 days from the date of notification of test results.

Appeals will be considered on the basis of:

- a. Misinformation regarding testing arrangements (test taker given wrong location, time, etc.)
- b. LTA error (misinformation given to the test taker – telling the test taker that if s/he chooses option A, s/he must choose option A throughout the test; LTA changing site information without informing test taker, unprofessional conduct, failure to follow guidelines in LTA Manual, etc.)
- c. Equipment malfunction (equipment failure, inappropriate equipment, etc.)
- d. Environmental factors (air conditioning breakdown with temperature in test room excessive, distracting loud noises, power outage, etc.)
- e. Damaged stimulus materials (lack of complete set of stimulus materials, worn-out tapes, etc.)
- f. Unavoidable catastrophic events (death of an immediate family member, doctor's verification of accident, illness or hospitalization, etc.)
- g. Acts of God (earthquake, fire, snowstorm, etc.)

An appeal must be filed within 90 days from the date of notification of test results. Any appeal received after the 90-day limit will not be reviewed.

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If the Certification Council upholds an appeal, the test retake must be completed within one year of the date of notification by the CC (94.47). If the test retake is not completed within the year, the applicant will be responsible for the reapplication process and fees.

CDI PERFORMANCE TEST

A. Applying for the Performance Test

An individual must have passed the CDI written exam and be a “Candidate for Certification” prior to applying to take the performance test. (00.05) To apply for the RID CDI performance test, one must complete and send a CDI application form, with all supporting documentation and payment of appropriate fees, to arrive at the National Office six weeks in advance of the published test date. (94.46) Preference for testing location(s) (site code) must be indicated on the application form. The NTS staff will notify candidates by mail of test availability in their preferred location(s).

Candidates for Certification have five years from the date they passed the written test in which to take and pass the performance test. (90.01) If a candidate fails to take and pass the performance test within the five-year time frame, s/he will be required to reapply for the written test and pay all related fees. Retake fees will not apply to those applicants.

B. Notification of Testing

Candidates will receive a letter indicating their placement on the priority list as well as confirming the date, time and location of the performance test approximately four weeks prior to the test date.

Upon receipt of the letter, candidates MUST notify the NTS office to check the status of their placement and to confirm their interest in taking the test regardless of their ranking. Four (4) candidates are generally tested in a day; each candidate requires one hour and fifteen minutes to warm up and approximately an hour and a half to be tested. Space is in high demand and testing slots are assigned on a first-come, first served basis.

The priority list is determined, for the most part, on when an individual’s application and payment are received in the National Office. Other factors — such as re-scheduled tests, upheld appeals, changes in test site preferences and natural disasters — may affect a candidate’s standing on the priority list.

Once a candidate has confirmed with the NTS office and has been scheduled for a test slot, failure to appear on the confirmed test date will result in forfeiture of all test and application fees.

C. Declined Performance Test Opportunities

Performance test candidates may decline two opportunities to test before they are moved to the bottom of the prioritized list. The NTS Coordinator will include a notice in the next notification of testing opportunity letter that indicates if the candidate does not respond,

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their status will be changed to “inactive” and they will not be notified of future test dates unless they contact the National Office in writing to indicate a renewed desire to test. Upon receipt of this letter, the candidate will be placed at the end of the prioritized list using the date the letter was received as their re-activation date. (96.08)

D. Cancellations

Cancellations due to a documented emergency situation as outlined within RID’s policy (Appendix E) will be given special consideration. Upon receipt of documentation and approval by the NTS Coordinator, application and test fees will carry over to the next available test date. Notification of emergency cancellations must be made to the National Office on the business day following the documented emergency. However, if the nature of the emergency precludes the applicant from doing so, s/he must contact RID at the first available opportunity.

Application fees for both the written and performance tests are nonrefundable under any circumstances.

Individuals who have paid the application and test fees and then decide that they no longer wish to take the performance test will be reimbursed only their test fees. Requests for reimbursement must be made in writing to the NTS Coordinator.

E. At the Test Site

1. Administration

Candidates should arrive in professional attire, which is appropriately color-contrasted to skin tone. Candidates should not wear whites or reds, as these colors cause problems for color video equipment. Candidates must sign forms indicating agreement to maintain confidentiality in regard to testing materials and show a valid photo I.D. This same form allows RID to use the test tape as a rater-monitoring device (92.32).

2. Warm-up Room

Each candidate is scheduled for one hour and fifteen minutes in the warm-up room. This period is primarily used by the candidate to view the various presenters, make their choices, and practice with those presenters until it is time to enter the testing room. Presenters viewed in the warm-up room are the same people who will appear on the stimulus material during the test.

There will be seven (7) tapes in the warm-up room. Each of the three segments – text to ASL, consecutive interpreting, and simultaneous interpreting – have two options, A and B. Mirror interpreting has only one tape with a variety of consumers presented. One of the tapes, marked “View This Tape First” contains an explanation of the testing process followed by a segment option. S/he then reviews each of the other tapes and chooses one option (either A or B) for each of the three segments. The candidate will then review and

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practice with these three tapes plus the mirror segment tape.

Prior to entering the testing room, the candidate will indicate the segment options as well as the order in which s/he would prefer to take the test. The candidate is then allowed up to fifteen minutes between the warm-up period and the start of the test.

3) Testing Room

The candidate may not bring any purses, bags, knapsacks, electronic devices (i.e.: cell phones, pagers, tape/digital recorders, etc.), or writing utensils into the testing room. Water or other drinks will be allowed in both rooms.

All blank tapes are supplied by RID. At the beginning of the videotape, candidates will be filmed fingerspelling their social security/insurance number twice. Candidates do not give their names. Names or other personal information are not provided to the raters.

As candidates proceed through the exam, if there is an environmental disturbance (i.e., loud fan that unexpectedly turns on, strong vibrations, or noises from outside the test room, etc.), the candidate may not turn off the camera or VCR but must immediately get the LTA so that the environmental problem can be corrected and so noted on the verification form. Any interruption in test procedure must be noted on the appropriate form.

Every candidate's performance is recorded on videotape and available for rating, for any subsequent appeal or review, and for use by RID as a rater-monitoring device.

F. Performance Test Format

Segments on the Test

There are four components to the performance test:

Text to ASL

The candidate will interpret a written text to a Deaf consumer. This text will be provided in the warm-up and testing rooms and could include: medical forms, after-care instructions, insurance forms, social security forms, etc.

Consecutive Interpreting

The candidate will provide ASL interpretation to the Deaf consumer while working with a hearing interpreter as a team.

Simultaneous Interpreting

Candidates will provide simultaneous interpretation to consumers who are Deaf-Blind or Deaf-close-vision from a Deaf presenter.

Mirror Interpreting

Candidates will provide mirror interpreting for audience members' comments after a forum.

G. The Rating Process and Awarding of Certification

The test is **not** designed as a diagnostic instrument. Raters for the performance test are trained to identify performances that meet or exceed the minimum standards.

The candidate's test tape is simultaneously sent to three Certified Deaf Interpreter raters. The candidate must pass a majority of those raters to be awarded certification.

Once certification is awarded, the newly certified interpreter must obtain certified membership status and satisfy all requirements with RID in order to maintain valid certification.

Rater's judgments of a candidate's performance are unbiased and based on the minimum standard of acceptable performance. They are not, in any way, influenced by an RID committee or board.

H. Results and Retakes

The LTA is required to immediately send the videotapes to the National Office after the performance test session. Candidates will be apprised of the status of their results in approximately 90 days. (C91.16)

Those persons whose performance did not meet or exceed the standard will be informed which section of the test they failed: Text to ASL; Consecutive Interpreting; Simultaneous Interpreting; Mirror Interpreting. RID's tests are holistic in nature as determined by the certified membership in 1983 and again in 1985. Candidates are allowed to retake the test after a waiting period of six (6) months from the date they took the performance test and upon completion of the re-application process. (92.59) This process consists of submitting a completed RID CDI application form and paying only the test fee.

Holders of the Reverse Skills Certificate (RSC) from National RID do not place their present certificate in jeopardy by taking the performance test. These certificates remain valid as long as the holder continues active membership in RID and meets all other requirements stipulated by the RID.

I. Appeal Process

The Certification Council (CC) will review appeals related to the administration of the test, such as violations of proper procedure and/or deviation from National Testing System policy, and issue a response within 60 days of receipt. Appeals must be sent in writing by certified mail or on videotape to the NTS Coordinator at the RID National Office. An appeal must be filed within 90 days from the date of notification of test results.

If the Certification Council upholds an appeal, the test retake must be completed within one year of the date of notification by the CC. (94.47) If the test retake is not completed within the year, the candidate will be responsible for the reapplication process and fees.

Test appeals will not be considered on the basis of rater decision/judgment. (96.03)

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Appeals will be considered on the basis of:

- b. Misinformation regarding testing arrangements (test taker given wrong location, time, etc.)
- c. LTA error (misinformation given to the test taker – telling the test taker that if s/he chooses option A, s/he must choose option A throughout the test; LTA changing site information without informing test taker, unprofessional conduct, failure to follow guidelines in LTA Manual, etc.)
- d. Equipment malfunction (equipment failure, inappropriate equipment, etc.)
- e. Environmental factors (air conditioning breakdown with temperature in test room excessive, distracting loud noises, power outage, etc.)
- f. Damaged stimulus materials (lack of complete set of stimulus materials, worn-out tapes, etc.)
- g. Unavoidable catastrophic events (death of an immediate family member, doctor's verification of accident, illness or hospitalization, etc.)
- h. Acts of God (earthquake, fire, snowstorm, etc.)

An appeal must be filed within 90 days from the date of notification of test results. Appeals received after the 90-day limit will not be reviewed.

Appendix A

Definition of the Certified Deaf Interpreter

The Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) is an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing. In addition to proficient communication skill and general interpreter training, the CDI has specialized training and/or experience in the use of gesture, mime, props, drawings and other tools to enhance communication. The CDI has knowledge and understanding of deafness, the Deaf community, and Deaf culture. The CDI possesses native or near-native fluency in American Sign Language.

Appendix B

Sample Items for the CDI Written Test

- 1) Which of the following is the most accurate statement regarding the role of the Certified Deaf Interpreter?
 - a. The Certified Deaf Interpreter should function as a conduit to pass on exactly what is said by both deaf and hearing consumers.
 - b. The Certified Deaf Interpreter should consider the needs of the deaf consumer first.
 - c. The Certified Deaf Interpreter should consider the needs of the hearing consumer first.
 - d. The Certified Deaf Interpreter should accommodate both deaf and hearing linguistic and cultural norms.

 - 2) A Certified Deaf Interpreter and hearing interpreter are working together in a medical setting. The Certified Deaf Interpreter interprets between the hearing interpreter and the deaf couple. Which type of interpreting is being used?
 - a. mirror interpreting
 - b. team interpreting
 - c. shadow interpreting
 - d. Deaf-Blind interpreting

 - 3) Which of the following is the best definition of the relationship between the source language (SL) and the target language (TL)?
 - a. The wording of the SL and the TL are the same or similar.
 - b. The TL should be a simplified version of the SL.
 - c. The understanding of the TL consumer is the same as the understanding of the TL speaker.
 - d. The SL and TL consumers share the same understanding.

 - 4) When interpreting for a consumer who has been identified as minimal language skilled, the Certified Deaf Interpreter should
 - a. be asked by the hearing interpreter to act as a monitor.
 - b. refrain from repetitive use of signs.
 - c. minimize the use of time references and tenses.
 - d. use gestures, pantomimes, and visual aids.
-

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5) In which of the following settings would consecutive interpreting be LEAST appropriate?

- a. interpreting in a doctor's office
- b. interpreting in a play
- c. interpreting the Miranda Warning
- d. interpreting the reading of a will

Correct Answers:
1) D
2) B
3) D
4) D
5) B

Appendix C

CDI Written Test — Suggested Reference Materials

The following is a list of references that may be helpful in reviewing for the CDI written test. This listing is intended for use as a study aid only. RID does not intend the list to imply endorsement of these specific references, nor are test items necessarily taken directly from these sources.

CDI Sample Test Package. RID Publications

The RID Code of Ethics. RID Publications

Sign Language Interpreting: A Basic Resource Guide. Sharon Neumann-Solow. Linstock Press.

Interpreting: An Introduction. Nancy Frishberg. RID Publications

Interpreting: The Art of Cross Cultural Mediation, Proceedings of the 1985 RID Convention.

Marina McIntire, Editor. RID Publications

Interpreting for International Conferences. Danica Seleskovitch. 1994. RID Publications

Interpretation: A Sociolinguistic Model. Dennis Cokely. 1992. Linstock Press

ASL Teacher's Resource Text on Grammar and Culture. Baker and Cokely. 1980. TJ Publishers

Guidelines; Practical Tips for Working and Socializing with Deaf-blind People. Theresa B.

Smith. 1994. Sign Media.

Interpretation Skills: English to American Sign Language, Interpreting Consolidated. Marty Taylor, 1993.

So, You Want to be an Interpreter? Humphrey and Alcorn. 1995. H and H Publishers.

RID Standard Practice Papers, RID Publications

Sign Language Interpreting: Exploring its Art and Science. Stewart, Schein and Cartwright.

1998. Allyn and Bacon.

CDI Sample Written Test Package. RID Publications

Appendix D

CDI Written Test Outline

The following is a detailed outline of the four domains of the examination with an indication in parentheses of the approximate percentage of questions devoted to each area.

I. Professional Roles and Responsibilities (33)

- a. Support consumers in giving feedback to hiring agent and/or requester
- b. Assess whether qualified to accept assignment
- c. Assess level of comfort with the assignment (i.e., determine whether personal relationships or uncomfortable topics may affect ability to provide impartial services)
- d. Maintain confidentiality so that consumer privacy is safeguarded
- e. Maintain currency with literature on interpreting and related fields (e.g., language, communications, social anthropology)
- f. Attend workshops and classes on interpreting and related fields
- g. Pursue professional interpreting certification(s) and engage in activities necessary to maintain certification(s)
- h. Adhere to accepted business practices
- i. Allow time to prepare adequately for the assignment prior to commencement of service
- j. Abide by the RID Code of Ethics
- k. Maintain working knowledge of existing federal, state, and local laws that impact the interpreting profession and Deaf community (e.g., ADA, PL93-112, Vocational Rehabilitation Act – 1973, IDEA)
- l. Protect assignment-related information by abstaining from assignment-related discussion with consumers after interpreting assignment has been completed

II. Preparation for Service Delivery (20)

- a. Determine the number of consumers expected; names of consumers and team interpreter(s); date, time, and duration of the interpreting assignment; the number of interpreters needed; and the location, setting, and format (e.g., lecture, group discussion)
- b. Become familiar through conversation with consumers' style of discourse, including language structure, register, sociolinguistics, regional dialect, and goal of interaction
- c. Determine consumers' previous experience and level of comfort with interpreters
- d. Confer with consumers on communication and social logistics for the assignment (e.g., How should the interpreter interrupt speaker if clarification is needed?)
- e. Become familiar with the nature of material to be communicated during the assignment, including technical terms, code names for projects, or acronyms that may arise
- f. Discuss pertinent knowledge of assignment, consumer, setting, etc., with members of the interpreting team

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- g. Define functions and logistics for members of the interpreting team
- h. Recognize physical, psychological, and emotional implications of the assignment
- i. Develop agreement with consumers regarding the specifics of compensation
- j. Determine, in conjunction with consumers, proper physical placement of interpreter(s) and consumers to assure visual accessibility
- k. Evaluate visual factors (e.g., lighting, obstructions) and media that may interfere with communication
- l. Discuss effective turn taking strategies
- m. Explain the role and function of the interpreter(s) and/or team

III. Provision of Service (37)

- a. Inform consumers of any problems with environment and interpreter's efforts to make needed changes
- b. Negotiate with consumer(s) to create working conditions that will facilitate the most accurate and comfortable delivery of interpreting services (e.g., changes in the form of the presentation, pauses)
- c. Process source message to determine semantic intent
- d. Construct equivalent message in target language
- e. Convey equivalent message using language that is culturally and linguistically appropriate
- f. Maintain message integrity, content, register, and affect
- g. Get clarification if necessary
- h. Monitor direct and indirect consumer feedback periodically to determine if message is comprehended clearly and fully
- i. Perform the agreed upon functions of team interpreting
- i. Communicate with team member(s) to assess effectiveness of the interpreting
- k. Maintain awareness of boundaries, stamina, and mental clarity
- l. Make adjustments as circumstances arise

IV. Post-Service Closure (10)

- a. Address consumer's request for further interpreting assignments appropriately
- b. Interpret for consumer(s) while giving feedback to hiring agent and/or person who requested the services
- c. Answer questions consumers may have about the interpreting process
- d. Conduct self-appraisal of interpreting performance
- e. Participate in the appraisal of the team interpreting performance
- f. Develop strategies for improving performance and approaching future assignments based on self-appraisal and feedback
- g. Incorporate factors through feedback from consumer, self-analysis, and team appraisal in future assignments
- h. Perform the necessary paperwork to receive payment
- i. Reiterate the interpreter's obligations, role, scope of service, and responsibilities

Appendix E

Acceptable Emergency Situations

- death of an immediate family member,
- doctor's verification of accident, illness, or hospitalization
- a natural disaster.

Individuals can appeal denials of acceptable emergency situations through the established appeal procedure if they disagree with the decision regarding their inability to take the test.

Appendix F

RID Code of Ethics

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. has set forth the following principles of ethical behavior to protect and guide interpreters, transliterators, hearing and Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing consumers. Underlying these principles is the desire to insure for all the right to communicate.

This Code of Ethics applies to all members of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. and to all certified non-members.

1. Interpreters/translitterators shall keep all assignment-related information strictly confidential.
2. Interpreters/translitterators shall render the message faithfully, always conveying the content and spirit of the speaker using language most readily understood by the person(s) whom they serve.
3. Interpreters/translitterators shall not counsel, advise or interject personal opinions.
4. Interpreters/translitterators shall accept assignments using discretion with regard to skill, setting, and the consumers involved.
5. Interpreters/translitterators shall request compensation for services in a professional and judicious manner.
6. Interpreters/translitterators shall function in a manner appropriate to the situation.
7. Interpreters/translitterators shall strive to further knowledge and skills through participation in workshops, professional meetings, interaction with professional colleagues, and reading of current literature in the field.
8. Interpreters/translitterators, by virtue of membership or certification by the RID, Inc., shall strive to maintain high professional standards in compliance with the Code of Ethics.

Appendix G

What is Interpretation?

Many candidates for the Certificate of Interpretation (CI) performance examination have requested guidance for understanding what the target production of the English-to-sign portion of the test should look like. RID raters have reviewed the minimum standard, and performances of passing and failing candidates, and have agreed upon the following description of “interpretation” as applied to the RID Certificate of Interpretation Examination. Three categories of variables have been defined: ASL Grammar and Vocabulary, Processing, and Mouth Movement Patterns.

ASL Grammar and Vocabulary (English to ASL Interpreting)

- Use of appropriate ASL grammar (use of space for characterization, subject-object agreement and verb inflections; facial grammatical forms for questions, topics, commands, etc.).
- Semantically correct sign choices used appropriately for ASL syntax.
- Limited amounts of “initialization” are acceptable but only to the extent used by deaf adults.

Processing

- The minimum acceptable level of processing is at the phrasal to sentential levels. Word-for-word processing will not pass the certification examination.
- Some syntactic influences of the original text may appear in the interpretation, but only so long as the interpretation remains clear and makes “visual sense.”

Mouth Movement Patterns

- Mouth patterns should reflect appropriate adult ASL usage.
- Mouth movements which only represent exact English word order will not pass the test.

Working Into Spoken English

- For the Certificate of Interpretation performance examination, candidates should create a grammatically correct and coherent English text which remains true and accurate with regard to the source text. There should be no substitutions. Extended periods of silence (processing time) are acceptable so long as there are no significant omissions.

Overriding all of these details is the requirement that the target message resulting from the interpretation process remains true and accurate with regard to the source test. There should be no substitutions (missing a concept from the original and replacing it with a different concept), and no significant omissions (all of the main points and nearly all of the supporting details) of the source test should be reflected in the target test.

Appendix H

What is Transliteration?

Many candidates for the RID Certificate of Transliteration (CT) performance examination have requested guidance in an effort to understand the goal of the English-to-sign portion of the exam. Raters have reviewed the minimum standard in addition to performances of passing and failing candidates, and have agreed upon the following description of rating criteria for the current performance evaluation for the Certificate of Transliteration.

The three broad categories of variables that raters evaluate have been described: Grammar and Vocabulary, Processing, and, Mouth Movement Patterns.

Grammar and Vocabulary

- Use of space for role taking (characterization).
- Use of space for subject-object agreement and verb inflections.
- Conceptually correct sign choices (based on meaning rather than form).
- Some amount of “initialization” but only to the extent that initialization is used by deaf adults (not to the extent of Manual English Codes).
- A successful candidate will produce English which is generally grammatically correct, clearly enunciated, with few annoying habits (such as “um,” “er,” “you know”).

Processing

- Lexical to Phrasal level of processing, e.g., ranges from “word meaning for word meaning” to “more than words, less than sentences.”
- Some restructuring or paraphrasing for clearer conveyance of meaning.
- Some additions of ASL signs which enhance the clarity of the visual message (modals such as CAN, classifier constructions, indexing, and listing structures).
- Detailed English morphology (e.g., manual English coding of “ing,” “ed,” and the copula) which is conveyed on the mouth but not with manual signs.

Mouth Movement Patterns

- Cohesive English sentences are visibly presented on the lips, either as exact words from the original text or as English paraphrasing of the original text.

Finally, overriding all of the above details is the requirement that the target message resulting from the transliteration process remains true and accurate with regard to the source text. There should be no substitutions (missing a concept from the original and replacing it with a different concept), and no significant omissions (all of the main points and nearly all of the supporting details of the source text should be reflected in the target text). The spoken English message will be true to the original signed message with relatively few omissions, substitutions, or other errors.

In order to gain further guidance, the RID raters recommend that candidates for testing read Elizabeth Winston’s article (1989) “Transliteration: What’s the Message?” The description of transliteration in this article is determined to be an accurate description of the performance of a successful candidate for the Certificate of Transliteration performance examination.

Winston, E. 1989. Transliteration: What’s the message? Found in, “The Sociolinguistics of the Deaf Community.”

C. Lucas. Ed. San Diego, CA: Academic Press. Available through Gallaudet University Bookstore.

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Appendix I

Rating Scales

Due to the unique nature of the Certified Deaf Interpreter performance exam, that is, it tests for certain behaviors in specific circumstances, the rating scales will not be released in the same manner or to the extent that those for the other generalist exams have been released. This decision comes as a result of advice from RID's psychometrician. Their recommendation is that the descriptors for each behavioral scale not be released as it would tell the candidate the exact performance expected. Therefore, the descriptors cannot be released or the test would be compromised.

The following are the headings that comprise the behavioral scales by which candidates are scored (performance exam only):

Consecutive Interpreting

- Sign Parameters
- Non-manual Markers
- Fingerspelling/Numeral Incorporation
- Classifiers
- Spatial Reference
- Phrasing
- Register
- Affect
- Delivery
- Visual Size
- Integrity of Message

Simultaneous Interpreting

- Sign Parameters
- Non-manual Markers
- Fingerspelling/Numeral Incorporation
- Classifiers
- Spatial Reference
- Phrasing
- Register
- Affect
- Delivery
- Visual Size
- Neutrality
- Environmental Information
- Integrity of Message

Mirroring

- Affect
- Delivery
- Visual Size
- Accuracy
- Environmental Information

Text to ASL

- Sign Parameters
- Non-manual Markers
- Fingerspelling/Numeral Incorporation
- Classifiers
- Spatial Reference
- Phrasing
- Register
- Affect
- Delivery
- Visual Size
- Neutrality
- Integrity of Message