

## WHAT ARE THE RIGHTS FOR THE DEAF?

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- Interpreters must be licensed unless consumers choose "Consumer Choice"
- Interpreters must have correct proficiency level (right color/skill) of license for assignment
- Consumers can ask interpreter to show licensure card
- Consumers can file a complaint against an interpreter with IDHHC



For more information,  
contact us at:

### Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission

528 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 209  
Springfield, IL 62701

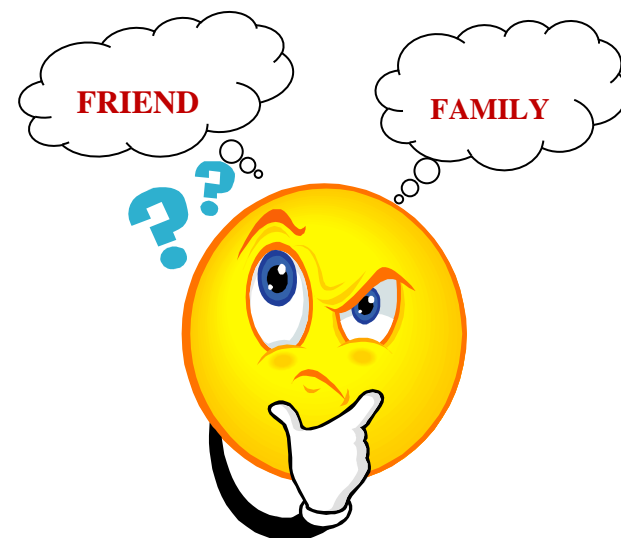
217-557-4495 (V)  
888-261-2698 (TTY)  
217-303-8010 (VP)

[dhh.interpreter@illinois.gov](mailto:dhh.interpreter@illinois.gov)

## "CONSUMER CHOICE" INTERPRETING

*WHAT DOES THIS MEAN  
FOR THE DEAF?*

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ILLINOIS DEAF AND HARD  
OF HEARING COMMISSION

<http://www.idhhc.illinois.gov>



## What is Interpreter Licensure?

Interpreters must have a license issued by the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission.

## Am I required to use a licensed interpreter if I don't want to?

No. You can request a non-licensed person to interpret. This is called "Consumer Choice".

## Are service providers (ie: doctor offices, hospitals, schools, etc) allowed to use "Consumer Choice"?

No. Only Deaf consumers can use "Consumer Choice".

## If I use "Consumer Choice", who can I choose?

### Can choose:

- Family
- Friends

### Cannot choose:

- Licensed interpreter with wrong proficiency level (color/skill) of licensure.

## Why can't I choose a licensed interpreter for "Consumer Choice"?

Because licensed interpreters must follow rules depending on their licensure level.

## Can those who work as "Consumer Choice" be paid?

No.

## Why can't they be paid?

Because this is for volunteering only under "Consumer Choice" and they are not licensed or a professional interpreter.

