

When is it necessary to call a Deaf interpreting team? There are several considerations. The first one would be the consumer themselves. Growing up, they may not have had access to language, they may be language deprived. The consumer may have moved from another country having another sign system.

Another consideration would be physical implications such as cerebral palsy or arthritis. Low vision would be a consideration. Supposing the consumer was missing fingers or limbs, this would be included in the physical considerations as well. In these cases, the support of a Deaf interpreter would be necessary.

Other considerations would be for mental health situations, such as the presence of high emotions or situations where there might be mental barriers where the consumer may not be in a position to process the information. The hearing interpreter would need the support of a Deaf interpreting team. There may be situation with cognitive abilities or learning disabilities. Those could also be barriers to language access. Another consideration might be the age of the consumer. If the consumer was young, they may not have the world experience necessary to completely understand the situation. In that case, a Deaf interpreter would be suited to match their language needs for full understanding.

Likewise, if the consumer was a senior citizen, a Deaf interpreter may be needed. Other scenarios may come up such as legal, medical, and mental health situations. In these situations, a Deaf team is critical considering the high stakes involved, including the possibility of losing one's kids, being incarcerated, or situations where misunderstandings have a huge negative impact. Serious decision making such as surgeries etc. are types of high-risk scenarios where it is imperative to have complete understanding in order for the Deaf consumer to make decisions concerning their life.

The last consideration would be the idea of shared cultural experiences. In order to have dynamic equivalence and ease of understanding a Deaf team may be used for the consumer to feel at ease that there is another individual with a shared life experience. There are many scenarios where a Deaf Interpreter should be used.