



Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

## Misuse of RID Certification(s) to Teach ASL

The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., as the national certifying body for sign language interpreters, is dedicated to upholding the highest standards in the profession of American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation. We are aware that individuals may be misusing their RID certifications to imply qualifications for teaching ASL. Our goal is to provide clarification on this topic. RID firmly asserts that its certifications are not intended to serve as credentials for individuals to claim proficiency or expertise in teaching ASL.

Teaching and interpreting are distinctly different professions. The skills required for ASL interpreting and those required for teaching ASL should not be confused or conflated. RID certifications are designed to assess and recognize individuals who have demonstrated a minimum level of competence in the process of interpreting in sign language and/ or English. RID certifications are not designed to validate or evaluate an individual's ability to teach ASL, as the skills and competencies required for interpreting and teaching are unique.

The American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) is the national certifying body specifically established for individuals seeking recognition and validation of their qualifications to teach ASL. Individuals aspiring to teach ASL should seek guidance and certification from the ASLTA. ASLTA certification is specifically tailored to assess and validate the skills and qualifications necessary for effective ASL instruction.

It is incumbent upon individuals holding RID certifications to communicate their qualifications accurately and responsibly. Misuse and/ or misrepresentation of RID certifications for purposes outside their intended scope is a violation of the NAD-RID Code of Professional Conduct and can result in sanction by the Ethical Practices System.

RID is committed to maintaining the integrity of its certification system and upholding the highest standards in the field of ASL interpretation. We encourage our members to pursue ASLTA certification if their professional aspirations involve teaching ASL.

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