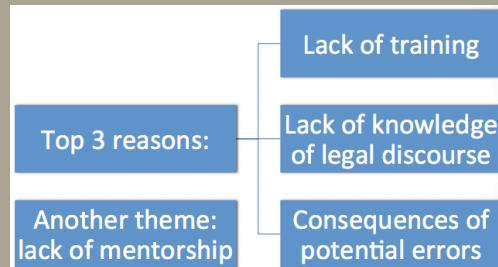


# CURRENT PRACTICES IN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING IN NORTH AMERICA

## WHY NOT INTERPRET IN LEGAL SETTINGS?



## THE COMPLEXITY OF THE WORK:



## TRAINING DESIRED:

Academic courses (college or university)  
72% want for credit courses

### Preferred Formats:

1. Single weekend = 47%  
Face-to-face
2. Blended = 32%  
Combination of online & face-to-face
3. Distributed = 20%  
one weekend/month with practical application & activities between meetings

## THE STUDY:

The results of a study regarding the training needs of interpreters dealing with legal settings and discourse.

### RECOMMENDATIONS & ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS: PRACTITIONERS

- Linguistic fluency and cultural adeptness = pre-requisite skills (seek out honest and accurate assessments and incorporate changes to modify and enhance skills)
- Proficiency in all modes of interpretation (translation, sight translation, CI and SI)
- Interpreters need to be able to perform: Accurate message analysis; error identification and correction; and skillful self-analysis
- Know when and how to work alone or as a team of interpreters, including a team of Deaf and hearing interpreters; ensure event is preserved by video-recording
- Identifying a situation that is legal in nature
- Know when to turn back or turn over a VRS call
- Identify if have the interpersonal skills required for this professional environment

### RECOMMENDATIONS: EDUCATORS & MENTORS

- Need for Deaf and non-deaf educators, trainers, mentors
- Design & deliver specialized program for trainers, educators, mentors; prepare specialists to serve as educators, trainers and mentors
- Provide ongoing modeling of effective interpretation, assessing one's own work for accuracy, and decision-making skills
- Be available for observation, discussion, & guidance
- Confirm preferred preferences for training format and focus – face-to-face, remote, regional, ongoing, content, etc.
- Mentoring: teamed assignments, observations, simulated practice experiences
  - On site or remote technology
- Simulated practical experiences
- Certification for mentors in legal specialization

### RECOMMENDATIONS: ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

- Undergraduate programs have an introductory course in the specialization
- Certification for mentors in legal specialization
- Incentives for mentors to work with students
- Simulated practical experiences
- Certification program in the specialization

### SUGGESTED SYSTEMIC TRAINING SEQUENCE

1. Translation, sight translation, CI, and SI training – preparation discourse & text analysis, error analysis, self-assessment, ethics and decision-making
2. Team processes, specifically D/H teams
3. Orientation to the legal system
4. Legal discourse and interactions
5. Types of law and laws pertaining to interpreters
6. Protocol – videotaping, qualifying, conflict of interest checks, preparation strategies, ethics and decision-making
7. Case preparation – preparing with the individuals involved, establishing working conditions, materials preparation, ethics and decision-making
8. Message analysis and error correction specific to legal settings

### COLLABORATIONS NEEDED:

- Among educational institutions, professional organizations, and individuals
- Between signed and spoken language interpreting communities
- With legal personnel, including law enforcement, court and “non-legal” personnel
- Among interpreting and Deaf organizations with local Deaf communities to address ongoing education