Please read this article with an open mind. The intention of this article is to introduce a different strategy for how to use Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDI). This article does not mean to offend hearing interpreters, or to insult deaf interpreters that have the Reverse Skills Certificate (RSC). It will give different perspectives for both hearing and deaf interpreters to think about. It will explain the concept and the processing of what a Certified Deaf Interpreter’s role should be. I will use the process of interpreting (going from sign language to target language, keeping integrity of message and equivalency of message while maintaining neutrality and following the Code of Ethics) and linguistic study of American Sign Language as several examples.

Historically, hearing interpreters have been accustomed to using deaf interpreters with the RSC. Some RSC holders have the proper training. However, some of them did not have any training. Thus, it is a risky situation for the hearing interpreters who work with poorly trained teammates. Most of the RSC holders received training to become raters/evaluate hearing interpreters.

Now there is more training available for deaf interpreters. More deaf interpreters have applied for the CDI-P with an enthusiastic outlook for this professionalism. There is not much work for them, but they have pursued more work. They have been trying to convince hearing consumers and hearing interpreters that they are capable of doing the work. We know this is a new concept to some people, and the financial impact is another matter. Deaf interpreters feel as if they are shut off from the opportunity to gain experience as deaf interpreters. The only job they can seek to secure their bread and butter is to teach at interpreter training programs.

“Oh, Certified Deaf Interpreters are there only for deaf people with minimal language skills or whenever I need them!” many hearing interpreter may say. However, the hearing interpreters have completely forgotten about the grassroots population. What about the deaf children, deaf mental health patients and deaf patients in hospital emergency rooms? Deaf/hearing teams are very useful with those who have very strong American Sign Language skills. Many of us are not aware of or know the other possible sequences to make the communication more efficient, and success in message relaying system.

Because it is a new field, we know misunderstandings occur. We were not thoroughly acquainted with how to use deaf interpreters in the past. While the concept is not new, many are not familiar with it. There are few printed materials about deaf/hearing teams. The topic has not been included in most interpreter training programs. If we have the information and include it in the training programs, we will have a different perspective and different feelings/attitude about it.

**Deaf interpreter, how, when and where to use them**

For most hearing interpreters, they would envision the following: “I can sign very well and I can understand them very well, so there is no need for deaf interpreter to be present.” Or some of them feel demoted to have a certified deaf interpreter working with them. Or some feel intimidat-
The bottom line for those deaf people who are interested in becoming Certified Deaf Interpreters is that they should sign up for courses and training. Do not think “Oh, I know sign language and I don’t have to study.”

The double checking system is a useful tool for ensuring accuracy in interpretation. It involves checking the message twice to ensure that it is correctly understood. The first check is done by the interpreter, who repeats the message back to the sender to confirm that it was heard correctly. The second check is done by another interpreter, who listens to the first interpreter’s version and confirms its accuracy. This process helps to eliminate errors and misunderstandings, ensuring that the message is accurately conveyed.

The comfort usage of their language is another important consideration when working with deaf clients. Deaf people often prefer to communicate in their own language, American Sign Language (ASL), and it is important for interpreters to be able to communicate effectively in this language. This may involve learning specific signs and vocabulary related to the client’s profession or interests.

The grace period of time in the thinking processing refers to the time it takes for the interpreter to process the message and respond. This period is important for ensuring that the interpreter has enough time to understand the message and formulate a response. It also allows the interpreter to correct any errors that may have occurred during the process.

The deaf consumer’s right to know what has been interpreted is a fundamental principle of interpretation. It is the consumer’s right to be fully informed about the content of the message. This includes knowing who is interpreting the message, the context in which it was communicated, and any specific information that was shared. This information is important for ensuring that the consumer is able to make informed decisions and understand their rights.

The deaf consumer tends to have a good rapport with the interpreter. They appreciate the extra time and effort that the interpreter puts into ensuring that they understand the message. This helps to build trust and establish a working relationship with the interpreter.