

ASL, Cued Speech, Signed Exact English, Transliteration

There are many different ways to use your hands to convey information.

There is **American Sign Language (ASL)** which is a language using your hands and facial expressions to form words, grammar, and sentence structure. This is distinct from other sign languages such as French Sign Language or British Sign Language.

In addition, there are forms of manually coded English. These are not separate and distinct languages as ASL but ways to represent spoken English using your hands. A common one is **Signed Exact English (SEE)**. **Cued Speech** is another form of manually coded English that uses hand shapes in various positions around or near the mouth to support the individual's ability to lip-read. The hand shapes and positions work like phonetics to break down the sounds of the words

Usually, although this distinction is being used less and less:

"Interpreters" are people who translate from spoken English into ASL and vice-a-versa.

"Translitterators" are people who translate from spoken English into SEE or Cued speech.

-- Betty Siegel, email: BSiegel@kennedy-center.org

Wendy Harbour, formerly with the U of M Office for Students with Disabilities, says: If an organization gets a request for cued speech, ask if that is the preferred method of communication for the student/guest/visitor/employee, or if the person also knows sign language or uses FM Systems. The main reason for this question is that it is EXTREMELY difficult to find cued speech translitterators, especially for evening or weekend work. Roseville school district has several (but they may not work evenings or weekends). Regional Service Centers keep lists of cued speech translitterators.

It can be confusing. Cued speech "interpreters" are called **translitterators**. Many ASL interpreters call themselves translitterators (or say they are doing "translitterating") when they use PSE/Contact Sign. RID (Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf) has a Certificate of Transliteration (CT). So when students ask for translitterators most want ASL signs in English word order, but some want cued speech.

The Department of Human Services Metro branch of the Regional Service Center is a major resource for issues dealing with Minnesotans who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or DeafBlind. Ask for references & resources at metrorsc@state.mn.us, Phone: 651-297-1316 voice, tty 651-297-1313 or fax 651-215-6388. Other RSCs are located in Bemidji, Crookston, Duluth, Fergus Falls, Rochester, Saint Cloud.

CSD of Minnesota (Communication Service for the Deaf) says, "We rarely receive requests for cued speech interpreters. Rochester and Saint Louis Park schools use cued speech. Some believe, though not mainstream thinking in deaf education, that cued speech signers help students grasp English better."

The MN Resource Center for Deaf / Hard of Hearing in Faribault sponsors Cued Speech training for teachers and interpreters. Mary Cashman-Bakken is the director. Call 800-657-3936.

The National Cued Speech Assn., Web site: www.cuedspeech.org, has lists of translitterators in each state.

ASL Interpreting Services (Pam Nygren-Olson) has translitterators in their pool. Phone: 763-478-8963.

Language Matters offers classes, translitterators and information. Phone: 1-877-LMI-7333 v/tty or Web site: www.language-matters.com.

The Minnesota Cued Speech Association contact is Theresa Koenig, 4756 5th Avenue S., Duluth MN 55803; Phone: 218-724-0794; email: altheresa@juno.com.

Instructors of Cued Speech in Minnesota include:

Marcia Van Vreede, 9735 107th Avenue N., Maple Grove, MN 55369, Phone: (763) 425-0383; (612) 599-0902 Mobile; email: vanfamily@twincitizen.net.

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