

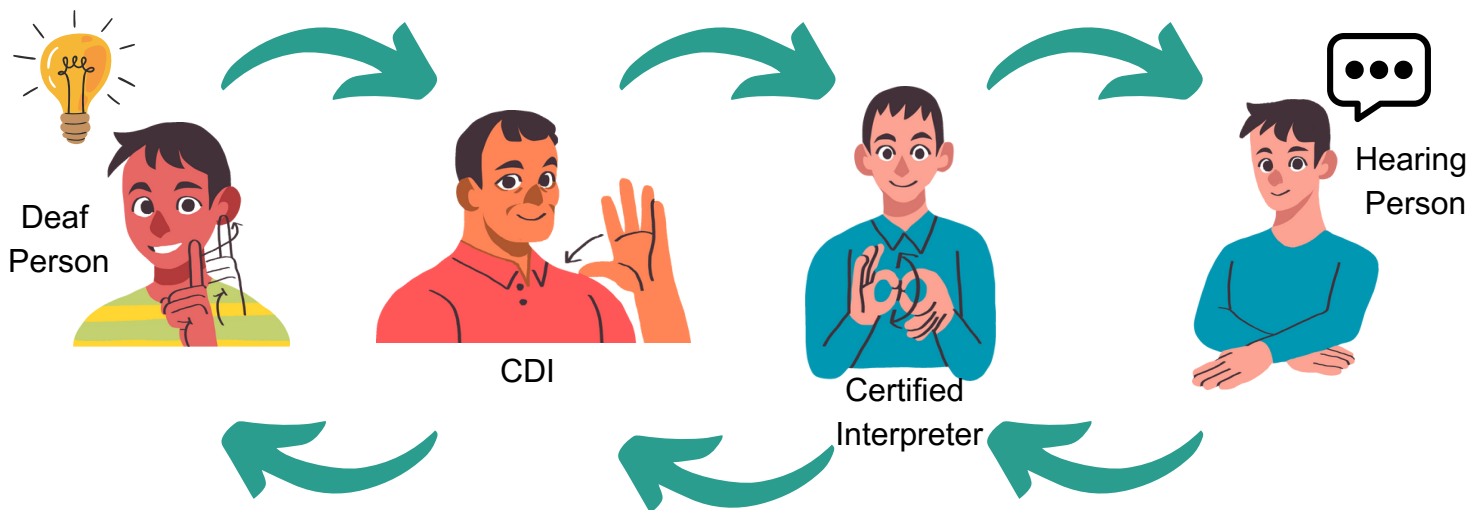
# Certified Interpreters vs. Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDIs)

## Certified Interpreter

- A hearing person
- Sign Language is their second language, except for Children of Deaf Adults (CODAs)

## Certified Deaf Interpreter

- A Deaf or Hard of Hearing person
- Sign Language is their native language
- Firsthand knowledge and experience
- May use props, drama, and visual gestural communication



## How are CDIs used?

A CDI serves as an equal member of the interpreting team along with a certified hearing interpreter or a certified interpreter. The CDI interprets the message from the deaf person (without using English syntax) to the hearing interpreter and the hearing interpreter then relays the message to the hearing person by putting the content into English.

## When should a CDI be used?

CDIs are particularly useful when the communication mode is unique or when they use signs that a hearing interpreter may not be familiar with such as non-standard signs, “home” signs, international sign language, visual gestural communication, regional signs, etc.

Sign Language is not the first language of hearing interpreters, except for CODAs. CDIs provide interpretation to the deaf person in their native language without the addition of an English structure and may also have a better understanding of what is being communicated.