

The Video Relay Service provides total communication to the deaf /hard of hearing and hearing communities by accessing Certified Sign Language Interpreters, some have college degrees and some have deaf parents. My parents taught me my first language; sign language and I grew up interpreting before it was considered a career/profession.

I have been certified and employed as an Interpreter for 20 years. When I attended the testing process in the state of Missouri I accomplished the highest level of certification and became licensed in the State of Missouri. The Certification I hold has an expiration of N/A, as long as I obtain the required Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and re-new my license annually. I was told I would never have to test again when I was awarded this level of Certification.

I was hired/trained and am employed with a Video Relay Service, licensed and certified in the state of Missouri; striving to honor the profession of VRS, as an Interpreter.

Requiring Interpreters to be RID-NIC in order to work at a Video Relay Center would be ideal, but the reality is that VRS employs Interpreters with and/or without this certification and should be able to continue to do so.

The impact this change would have on the consumers and interpreters is the key for the decision, which must be made.

Please consider the facts before making a change.

Thank you for your consideration.