

May 30, 2012

I am currently a VRS Interpreter. I have state certification but do not have RID certification. I understand the need for interpreters to have the highest skills to provide the best service possible.

I believe in national certification if it is individually possible. However, in my case this is not possible for the following reasons:

1. I do not have the required BA to take the test. I was working towards taking the national test when they changed their requirements to an AA. I decided to work towards that in my limited time and resources and they changed it to a BA. I do not have the time at my age, nor the funds to achieve a BA.
2. I do not have the funds to take the test even if I held a BA. My income goes towards our family and our needs. I already have the expense of the state certification testing, maintenance fees as well as continuing education units that I must obtain. To limit our household income by even a few hundred dollars is not something I could reasonably do.

There are others in similar circumstances to me. We strive to provide the best services possible not because it's just a job but because we love what we do.

Thank you,
Sonja Sides