Determining If A Sign Language Interpreter Is Qualified

A Qualified Interpreter...	A Non-Qualified Interpreter...
Is able to articulate clearly in both languages	Cannot articulate clearly in both languages and struggles with the interpretation process
Will pause and ask for clarification in either language when necessary	Will not pause and ask for clarifications, even when the consumer(s) seem confused
Interprets everything, including side conversations, curse words, insults, and environmental noises	Does not interpret everything in the setting, picks and chooses what gets interpreted
Maintains neutrality. Does not interject opinions, bias, or favoritism towards particular individuals in the setting while interpreting	Does not remain neutral. Interjects opinions and biases, exhibits favoritism in setting while interpreting
Corrects themselves when interpreting errors are made, and informs consumers of the interpreting error	Does not pause to correct errors; does not inform consumers about interpreting errors

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A Qualified Interpreter...	A Non-Qualified Interpreter...
Does not summarize or simplify information given	Summarizes and paraphrases information, omitting important details
Will not accept interpreting assignment if the consumer is not comfortable due to past experiences, unmatched skillset, linguistic struggles, or discomfort for any reason	Will accept an interpreting assignment regardless of inappropriate or unmatched skillset, judgements or opinions that could impede work performance and the ability to maintain impartiality
Checks in during breaks to make sure everyone is getting the information and asks if adjustments are needed	Does not check in or is unwilling to receive feedback in order to make appropriate adjustments
Uses first person as a conduit and refers to themselves as "the interpreter" to ask any clarifying questions	Uses third person when interpreting
Defers to the Deaf consumer regarding interpreter placement, linguistic preferences, etc.	Makes decisions regarding interpreter placement and linguistic preferences without checking in with the Deaf consumer