

Frequently Asked Questions South Dakota Interpreting Law

- 1. If I am certified with another state (IE: Florida, Missouri, etc), can I be licensed to work in SD after July 1st? If so, what certifications will SD accept?**
 - **South Dakota will recognize the certification listed below;**
 - i. National Certification (RID, NAD and, EIPA with a score of at least 3.5)**
 - ii. Certified by the Department of Human Services prior to July 1, 2006**
 - iii. But, the interpreter must register with the Department of Human Services to work in South Dakota and receive a SD Certification based on this registration.**

- 2. I graduated from an interpreter training program. Will I have 5 years to obtain certification like all new interpreters will?**
 - **Per 1-36-10.4 if you graduate from a postsecondary degree program of two years or more accredited in interpreter preparation or interpreter education you will be granted a provisional certification to work in SD for up to 5 years. You must apply for a provisional certification. This application must include a plan of study which includes mentoring and CEU hours.**

- 3. What will the certificate maintenance process be? Do I have to get a certain number of CEU's each year or just have some activity to show that I am doing something?**
 - **Nationally certified individuals must maintain the respective national certification maintenance requirements.**
 - **SD certified, provisional, and EIPA certified individuals must maintain SD certification maintenance requirements. This requires 25 continuing education hours per year.**

- 4. Upon graduation from my interpreter training program am I allowed to work for any company or do I need to wait for the final administrative rules to be developed before working?**
 - **This new law goes into effect July 1, 2006 but you will need to submit an application to the Department of Human Services for a provisional certification. This application must include a plan for mentoring and continuing education which must be approved by the Department of Human Services. The interpreter will then need to register annually. Annual registration will require proof of 25 continuing education hours.**

5. **What is the procedure for getting registered with the State of South Dakota?**
 - **Apply to the department with an application for registration along with the registration fee. This application is available online or by calling the department.**

6. **What process should I take if I forget to pay my registration fee annually to the State of South Dakota and my South Dakota Certification lapses?**
 - **There will be no allowance for late registration. If an individual does not register in a timely fashion their SD certification will lapse.**

7. **Will I, a current state of South Dakota certified interpreter, be grandfathered in to this new law? What steps do I need to take to be certain I am still able to work?**
 - **Yes, current SD certified interpreters will be grandfathered**
 - **SD certified interpreters must register initially and annually and maintain CEU requirements.**

8. **What are the ramifications of working in South Dakota without being registered with the State?**
 - **Per SDCL 1-36A10.3 a violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.**

9. **How do I find additional information for mentoring support? Are there certified mentors in South Dakota? Are there mentoring resources to assist rural SD interpreters who wish to enhance certification levels?**
 - **Mentoring will be available through approved mentors. Contact DHS for names of approved mentors.**
 - **DHS is looking at resources for interpreters in rural areas.**

10. **Will I be reminded by the State of South Dakota?**
 - **It is the intent of the department to send one courtesy notice one month prior to the annual registration date for each registered interpreter, but due to address changes and circumstances beyond our control not every interpreter may be notified. It is your responsibility to know your certification expiration date and when you should be registering.**

11. **How will CEU's be tracked and how many will be required?**
 - **The Department will establish procedures for submitting 25 CEU hours to the department on an annual basis for those under Section 3 & Section 4 (subsection 4). Nationally certified interpreters with the RID and NAD will track their CEU hours through the RID CMP program.**

- 12. What will happen with the registration fees and the provisional fees that have already been submitted to the Department of Humans?**
- **Per Department of Human Services policy, these checks must be deposited. The Department of Human Services will hold onto all the applications and backdate them to the effective date of the application upon adoption of final administrative rules. The Department will provide receipt of payment along with certifications.**
- 13. Will the state respond to those who have already submitted a registration or provisional certification application to the Department of Human Services?**
- **Yes, it is the intent of the department to respond in writing to all the individuals who have already submitted paperwork on behalf of the new statues.**
- 14. What will happen if the registration fee would be less than \$75.00?**
- **For State Certified interpreters (certified with the Department of Human Services prior to July 1, 2006) this fee will likely remain at \$75.00.**