

Best Practices

Interpreting and Walking Simultaneously

You're in a hallway, path, or sidewalk and a conversation needs to be interpreted. This scenario is not uncommon but can cause apprehension because of simultaneously walking, keeping on eye looking forward and the other at the Deaf person, and interpreting. Here are some strategies to employ the next time you're multi-tasking interpreting.

Solo Interpreter

Depending on if the conversation is between one Deaf and one non-deaf person or a group of people will determine where you are in the crowd. However the placement of the interpreter in relation to the Deaf person will remain the same. The interpreter should walk beside and slightly in front of the non-deaf person and the Deaf person will stand on the other side of the non-deaf person (interpreter – non-deaf person – Deaf person).

This placement allows the Deaf person to see both people easily. The interpreter and Deaf person need to communicate to each other of anything coming up as their walking. This may be a fallen branch, a light pole, or to direct them to the next stairway. These cues are not necessarily interpreted. This teamwork based strategy has helped mitigate minor accidents that can easily happen in this scenario.

Team Interpreting

The strategies outlined above apply to team interpreting. One difference is that the interpreter who is not actively working will stand at the back of the group. This interpreter will monitor for any auxiliary information and relay that to the interpreter / Deaf person when appropriate. As well, this interpreter is ready to interpret the conversations or remarks that are happening at the back of the group for when the Deaf person turns to look that way. This interpreter would also monitor the time for switching interpreters and when ready go to the front of the group and signal it is time to change interpreters.

[Click here for a video example](#)

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