

# CENTRALIZED INTERPRETER REFERRAL SERVICE

A PROGRAM OF

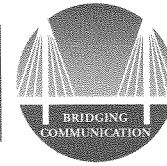
SAVANNAH SPEECH  
AND HEARING CENTER

912-355-4601

AN INTERPRETER acts as a communication link between people who are hearing and people who are deaf. Sign language is a highly developed form of visual communication with a unique grammatical structure. Hand signs, finger spelling, gestures, lip movements, facial expressions and body movements are all used to express and receive messages. Similarly, an oral interpreter may use more than lip movement when communicating the message.

CIRS INTERPRETERS serve as facilitators of communication, rendering the message faithfully and conveying both the content and spirit of the participants. The role of the interpreter is not that of consultant, advocate, sign language instructor, or expert on Deaf culture. CIRS interpreters make a formal commitment to abide by the RID Code of Ethics, to keep assignment-related information confidential, and to refrain from interjecting personal opinions or influence.

Savannah  
SPEECH & HEARING  
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## SERVICES

**Audiology:** Hearing tests, hearing aids, hearing aid repair, batteries/accessories, cochlear implant eligibility evaluations, mapping, and follow-up

### Speech-Language Evaluation & Therapy for:

Speech/articulation, oral-motor abilities, language, auditory processing, phonological awareness, autism, feeding difficulties, aural habilitation/rehabilitation, stuttering, voice, language-based learning disabilities, language-based reading difficulties, and other related communication problems

Auditory-Oral Therapy

Bilingual (Spanish) Speech Therapy

Sound Start/A School  
for the Deaf & Hard Of Hearing

Pre- and Post-Cochlear Implant Therapy

Sign Language Classes

Resource Library – Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Verbal Apraxia Therapy

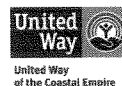
SpeechEasy Fluency Device

GA Southeastern Cleft Lip & Palate Clinic

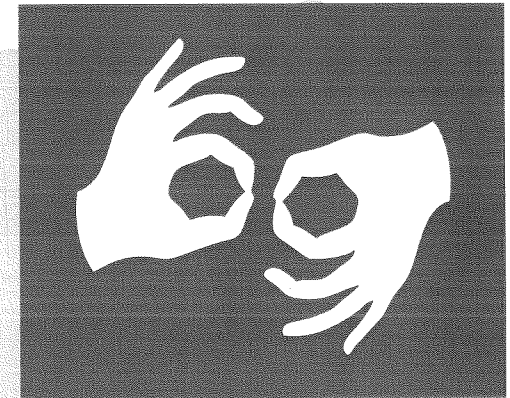
Central Auditory Processing Assessment

Accent Modification

Katie Brookshire HALO Fund



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Savannah, Georgia 31404

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## INTERPRETED SITUATIONS

Interpreted situations occur where and when clear, accurate communication needs to take place between a deaf or hard of hearing person and a hearing person. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act require most employers, schools, government entities, and places of public accommodation to provide qualified interpreters or auxiliary aids to ensure effective communication.

## WORKING WITH AN INTERPRETER

The responsibility of the interpreter is to interpret everything that is said into sign language and to interpret everything that is signed into spoken English. The interpreter conveys the emotions and messages of the people involved and does not add or delete information. She/He is required to remain neutral and does not share opinions or give advice.

- If you are using any highly technical language, review it with the interpreter before the meeting.
- Discuss ways for the interpreter to ask for clarification during interaction (I.e.: raising a hand for the speaker to slow down).
- Position the interpreter so that the deaf person can see the speaker and the interpreter at all times. Avoid direct light behind those involved in the interpreting situation as it can hinder visibility.
- Speak directly to the deaf person, not the interpreter. Keep eye contact with the deaf person and direct your remarks to him/her. Always observe the same courtesies in the presence of a deaf person that you would with a hearing person. If there is information you do not want interpreted, it should be discussed privately.
- Provide the interpreter with any information relevant to the assignment before it begins. Items such as agendas, programs, copies of speeches or sheet music can be invaluable to the interpreter.

## WORKING WITH AN INTERPRETER

The interpreter is usually one sentence behind the speaker. This time lapse may cause a delayed response from the deaf person. If reading a speech, pause at the end of important points. It is more helpful to the interpreter than reading slowly.

## PLACING AN INTERPRETER REQUEST

PLACE YOUR REQUEST 2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE

Request an interpreter with as much notice as possible. Many assignments require advance planning.

### BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION:

Location and directions, seating, lighting, starting and ending times, language preferences, number of participants, subject matter, meeting agenda, scripts, schedules, parking arrangements, and any other information that could be valuable to an interpreter.

### RECEIVE CONFIRMATION FROM CIRS

CIRS schedulers will confirm with you that one or more interpreters have been assigned. They also may contact you to clarify details or ask if the interpreter may call you directly in order to be adequately prepared for a complex event.

### NOTIFY CIRS IF ANY CHANGES OCCUR THAT AFFECT THE ORIGINAL REQUEST

Even a minor change may significantly affect our services. Inform CIRS of changes in time, location, number of participants, subject matter, presenters, and logistics of the assignment. Please note that there is a 48-hour cancellation policy.

### FOLLOW UP WITH THE INTERPRETER

Check with the interpreter to see if anything should be done differently in the future. Interpreters are an excellent resource to help you plan future assignments. Feedback regarding service is always appreciated and helpful.