



## Jurors: How to work with a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter during jury service

BSL interpreters enable communication between Deaf sign language users and hearing people.

If you're working with a BSL interpreter to communicate with a juror who is deaf:

- make sure you can see both the interpreter and the Deaf person, who will usually want to be opposite each other
- speak clearly and at a normal pace (you do not need to add pauses or speak slowly)
- look at and speak directly to the Deaf person
- avoid speaking to the interpreter about the Deaf person or asking them what the Deaf person means
- do not worry if the Deaf person looks at the interpreter while you're talking, but try to look at the Deaf person even while the interpreter is talking
- do not speak over someone else who is speaking or signing
- give the Deaf person time to read through and understand any handouts or documents as they cannot listen to the interpreter and read written information at the same time
- remember the interpreter and Deaf person may need regular breaks as interpreting is hard work for both people
- do not worry about the interpreter's confidentiality – they work to strict codes of conduct
- do not ask the interpreter:
  - for their personal opinions
  - not to interpret something
  - about their job while working

