



Staff: How to prepare jury service for a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter

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

If you're preparing to facilitate a BSL interpreter during jury service:

- brief the interpreter beforehand so they can fully understand what's going to happen
- where possible, make sure you provide any handouts to the interpreter and the Deaf person in advance so they can read through and prepare themselves
- make sure any videos that might be shown have subtitles
- allow extra time for the interpreter and Deaf person to meet at the start
- ask the interpreter and the Deaf person to advise you on the best seating or standing arrangements in the room (usually the Deaf person will need to be opposite the interpreter, with a view of the speaker)
- remember the interpreter and Deaf person may need regular breaks as interpreting is hard work for both people
- 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
- do not worry about the interpreter's confidentiality – they work to strict codes of conduct

