

8.07 INTERPRETER SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAFBLIND

Introduction

In recognition of the importance of communications in assuring the provision of vocational rehabilitation services and the communication needs of individuals who are deafblind, CBVH provides interpreter services to aid communication during the VR process.

Purpose and Scope of Services

The purpose of interpreter services is to facilitate the exchange of information between the individual who is deafblind and the counselor, and assure the individual's active participation in the VR process.

Interpreter services will be provided during contacts between the counselor and the deafblind individual and during the provision of rehabilitation services.

Who May Benefit from Interpreter Services

Interpreter services will be provided for deafblind individuals who have a significant hearing loss which prevents adequate speech discrimination or to ensure adequate two-way communication so that deafblind individuals have equal access to all rehabilitation services.

Qualifications for Providing Interpreter Services

Interpreters services are provided by interpreters who are certified by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and/or the National Association of the Deaf. If a certified interpreter is not available, a non-certified interpreter may be used, provided the consumer agrees.

Assessment of Communication Skills

When necessary, the deafblind individual's communication skills should be evaluated by a competent evaluator to determine the best means of communication for the individual.

Note

If an interpreting session is expected to be lengthy, the counselor should consider using more than one interpreter. This decision may be made in consultation with the initial

interpreter in advance of the session.

Economic Need

Interpreter services may be provided without consideration of a consumer's economic need status.

Comparable Benefits

When available, adequate and timely, comparable benefits are to be accessed when providing interpreter services.

Authorization and Payment

Interpreter services will be authorized in accordance with established rates (See Chapter 15.00 - Private Vendors) and paid for using the DSS-335.