

Interpreter Fees

<https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/seniors/services/deaf-hard-of-hearing/programs-services/interpreter-fees.jsp>

Minnesota Department of Human Services

Consider the following factors when choosing interpreters and negotiating rates of pay, whether working with an interpreter through an agency or a freelance interpreter.

- Completion of an interpreter training program
- Educational background
- Professional interpreting certification
- Special expertise in the topic area of a given interpreting assignment
- Unique needs or demands of the particular interpreting assignment
- Local fair market value of work
- Years of experience.

Base rate range

Base rate is the minimum charge that applies to all requests for interpreting services that are less than two hours duration. The base rate applies whether the interpreter is needed for 15 minutes or two hours or any amount of time in between. The range in base rates and in hourly rates is due to such factors as geographical location in the state, qualifications of the interpreter and nature of the assignment.

Hourly rate range

Hourly rate is the rate charged per hour for any time after the first two hours. Hours in excess of the base rate of two hours are sometimes billed by the quarter hour and sometimes by the half hour.

Other considerations

Some situations require specialized skills or expertise or hours beyond the normal workday. Examples include tactile interpreting for deafblind persons, interpreting for deaf clients with limited language skills and interpreting in legal situations or other high-risk situations.

Cancellation fees and charges for a consumer no-show are negotiable and should be discussed at the time interpreting services are arranged.

The cost of the interpreting service might be negotiated directly with the referral service or negotiated with individual interpreters.