



OASLI's Position on the Exclusive Use of Active AVLIC Members

OASLI's Position

The Ontario Association of Sign Language Interpreters (OASLI) supports the exclusive employment of qualified professionals who are Active members of the Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada (AVLIC). We believe that it is the right and the responsibility of all citizens of Ontario who employ the services of a sign language interpreter to contract only those providers who agree to uphold the guidelines of the profession as set out by our national association.

The Issue:

The field of American Sign Language (ASL)-English Interpretation is currently unregulated. This leads to many people who are considered competent "signers" making a living as interpreters in communities across Ontario. As they are not Active members of AVLIC, they

- are not required to follow the Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Conduct
- cannot be held accountable for their actions through AVLIC's Dispute Resolution Process

This has led to a lack of quality assurance and disempowerment of consumers throughout the province.

Rationale

OASLI is an Affiliate Chapter of AVLIC and as such all of our members have a minimum three years of post-secondary training or equivalent. Members are also bound by AVLIC's Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Conduct, which include

- Professional Accountability
- Professional Competence
- Non-discrimination
- Integrity in professional relationships
- Integrity in business practices

AVLIC is responsible for the development and administration of the Canadian Evaluation System, the country's only ASL-English interpreter certification process. The ultimate goal of AVLIC is to certify all of its members. AVLIC also provides Deaf and Non-Deaf consumers with a formal Dispute Resolution Process (DRP). Unfortunately this process may only be utilized in instances where the interpreter is an active AVLIC member, and does not apply to non-members. For all reasons stated above, OASLI supports the exclusive use of interpreters who are Active AVLIC members.

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