

CHAPTER 622B

DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING PERSONS — INTERPRETERS

Procedures upon arrest of deaf or hard-of-hearing persons; see [§804.31](#)

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622B.1 Definitions — rules.

1. As used in [this chapter](#), unless the context otherwise requires:
 - a. “*Administrative agency*” means any department, board, commission, or agency of the state or any political subdivision of the state.
 - b. “*Deaf person*” means an individual who uses sign language as the person’s primary mode of communication and who may use interpreters to facilitate communication.
 - c. “*Hard-of-hearing person*” means an individual who is unable to hear and distinguish sounds within normal conversational range and who needs to use speechreading, assistive listening devices, or oral interpreters to facilitate communication.
 - d. “*Interpreter*” means an oral interpreter or sign language interpreter.
 - e. “*Oral interpreter*” means an interpreter who is fluent in transliterating, paraphrasing, and voicing.
 - f. “*Sign language interpreter*” means an interpreter who is able to interpret from sign language to English and English to sign language.

2. The supreme court, after consultation with the department of human rights, shall adopt rules governing the qualifications and compensation of interpreters appearing in a proceeding before a court, grand jury, or administrative agency under [this chapter](#). However, an administrative agency which is subject to [chapter 17A](#) may adopt rules differing from those of the supreme court governing the qualifications and compensation of interpreters appearing in proceedings before that agency.

[C81, §622B.1]

[85 Acts, ch 131, §1; 88 Acts, ch 1134, §108; 93 Acts, ch 75, §7](#)

Referred to in [§321.189, 321.190, 804.31](#)

Rules adopted by the supreme court are published in the compilation “Iowa Court Rules”

622B.2 Interpreter appointed.

If a deaf or hard-of-hearing person is a party to, a witness at, or a participant in a proceeding before a grand jury, court, or administrative agency of this state, the court or administrative agency shall appoint an interpreter without expense to the deaf or hard-of-hearing person to interpret or translate the proceedings to the deaf or hard-of-hearing person and to interpret or translate the person’s testimony unless the deaf or hard-of-hearing person waives the right to an interpreter.

[C81, §622B.2]

[93 Acts, ch 75, §8](#)

Referred to in [§804.31](#)

622B.3 Notice of need.

When a deaf or hard-of-hearing person is entitled to an interpreter, the deaf or hard-of-hearing person shall notify the presiding official within three days after receiving notice of the proceeding, stating the disability and requesting the services of an interpreter. If the deaf or hard-of-hearing person receives notification of an appearance less than five days prior to the proceeding, that person shall notify the presiding official requesting an interpreter as soon as practicable or may apply for a continuance until an interpreter is appointed.

[C81, §622B.3]

[93 Acts, ch 75, §9](#)

622B.4 List.

The office of deaf services of the department of human rights shall prepare and continually update a listing of qualified and available interpreters. The courts and administrative agencies shall maintain a directory of qualified interpreters for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons as furnished by the department of human rights. The office of deaf services shall maintain a list of interpreters which shall be made available to a court, administrative agency, or interested parties to an action using the services of an interpreter.

[C81, §622B.4]

[88 Acts, ch 1134, §109](#); [93 Acts, ch 75, §10](#); [96 Acts, ch 1162, §1](#)

622B.5 Oath.

Before participating in a proceeding, an interpreter shall take an oath that the interpreter will make a true interpretation in an understandable manner to the person for whom the interpreter is appointed and that the interpreter will interpret or translate the statements of the deaf or hard-of-hearing person to the best of the interpreter's skills and judgment.

[C81, §622B.5]

[93 Acts, ch 75, §11](#)

622B.6 Privileged.

Communication between a deaf or hard-of-hearing person and a third party which is privileged under [chapter 622](#) in which the interpreter participates as an interpreter shall be privileged to the interpreter.

[C81, §622B.6]

[93 Acts, ch 75, §12](#)

622B.7 Fee.

An interpreter appointed under [this chapter](#) is entitled to a reasonable fee and expenses as determined by the rules applying to that proceeding. This schedule shall be furnished to all courts and administrative agencies and maintained by them. If the interpreter is appointed by the court, the fee and expenses shall be paid by the county and if the interpreter is appointed by an administrative agency, the fee and expenses shall be paid out of funds available to the administrative agency.

[C81, §622B.7]

[83 Acts, ch 123, §199, 209](#); [93 Acts, ch 75, §13](#)

Referred to in [§331.424](#)

622B.8 Disqualification.

On motion of a party or on its own motion, a court or administrative agency shall inquire into the qualifications and integrity of an interpreter. A court or administrative agency may disqualify for good reason any person from serving as an interpreter in that proceeding. If an interpreter is disqualified, the court or administrative agency shall appoint another interpreter.

[C81, §622B.8]