

## **Title: Assumed skills of other professionals 1**

### **Summary:**

Working with a Deaf person who is not fluent in BSL you have requested they bring a deaf person with them to help with communication and understanding. However once they start working you realise that they are not a fluent signer themselves.

### **Key words:**

Assumption. Assumed. Other professionals.

### **CMS summary:**

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### **Dilemma:**

You are an experienced and qualified interpreter, and have been booked for an employment disciplinary appeal following a Deaf staff members' dismissal.

When you meet the client you realise that they are not a native or fluent BSL user, and whilst communication is possible, it is challenging and often ambiguous.

As some key issues were ambiguous you suggest that you all come back again, with the Deaf staff member bringing their Deaf advice worker. You suggest this assuming that the Deaf advice worker would have good communication skills and background knowledge, and hoping that working in this way as a team this would support good communication and help ensure accuracy and understanding.

During the assignment you want the Deaf person to clarify something that you have interpreted. When they do, you realise that they are using strong SSE which the Deaf staff member understands less well than your BSL. The Deaf advice worker also isn't clear about their role in this situation, and is not really able to assist.

What could you have done to prevent this situation? And what can you do now?

Note – part one of the dilemma can be found [XXX](#) [link to Previous person 'interpreting' unqualified 1]

### **Professional and Customer perspectives (if any):**

Interpreter – I feel responsible for this confusion as I made an untested assumption about the knowledge and skills of the Deaf advice worker. They were not an interpreter, but to some extent I behaved as if they were.

Also at the end, they in fact did suggest an alternative explanation to something, which I hadn't thought of, and which made a lot of things clearer.

**Work role & Country of sender:** UK, Interpreter