



Dear Legal Professional

**Re: New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) interpreting services for Deaf people**

Deaf people who use NZSL as their first or preferred language often require New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) interpreting services to access services and to ensure their right to communication and right to be fully informed is realised. Written English and lip-reading are often not effective as English is like a second language to many Deaf people.

Deaf Aotearoa is contracted by the Ministry of Health to provide Deaf people with interpreting services for a wide range of health and disability services to ensure their access and participation. This covers interpreting service costs for appointments with legal representatives, lawyers, victim support or services that provide legal advice. It includes interpreting services for a Deaf person to make a report to the police, but not if the police are making the request.

The NZSL interpreting services funded by Deaf Aotearoa's contract with the Ministry of Health does not include Courts, Corrections or where the Police request the appointment, as these agencies are themselves responsible for paying for NZSL interpreting services for Deaf people to access their services.

NZSL interpreting services for legal appointments can be booked through Deaf Aotearoa's iSign service, a nationwide booking service providing qualified NZSL interpreters for jobs all around New Zealand.

Deaf Aotearoa advises legal professionals to liaise directly with their Deaf clients around booking an interpreter, including checking if the Deaf person has any preferred interpreters.

iSign interpreting services can be booked by contacting:

- Email:** [bookings@isign.co.nz](mailto:bookings@isign.co.nz)
- Phone:** 0800 934 683
- Free text:** 3359
- Website:** [www.isign.co.nz](http://www.isign.co.nz) Online booking form

Please ensure you state the appointment start and end time and venue.

If you have any queries please email [askus@isign.co.nz](mailto:askus@isign.co.nz)

Sincerely

Lachlan Keating  
Chief Executive

