

# Professional Interpreting Enterprise (PIE)

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## FAQ-DWD and PIE Sign Language Interpreting Apprenticeship

### Overview

Beginning August 1, 2024, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and Professional Interpreting Enterprise (PIE) embarked on a partnership to offer the first ever state of Wisconsin approved apprenticeship in Sign Language Interpreting. Historically, there is a gap between graduation and entering the workforce. Addressing this gap is PIE's goal while fostering skill development and opportunities for real world experience working towards certification.

### Partnership

DWD and PIE are excited to extend this partnership with entities that utilize sign language interpreters. The apprentice would be present with certified interpreters at all times. Allowing the apprentice to interpret with a team that is certified will provide quality control, future employment as an interpreter serving Ascension, as well as real world experience, much like doctors support their fellows.

### Expectations

The apprentice will be expected to adhere to RID's code of ethics ([CPC - Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.](#)), uphold PIE's guiding principles ([pieinc-wi.com/about/our-why/](http://pieinc-wi.com/about/our-why/)), and respect and adhere to requests that the entities and consumers may have.

The entities requesting services will respect the apprentice as a member of the interpreting team. The entities will notify PIE if there are any concerns or complaints as well as compliments.

## Q&A

**Q:** Are we paying for the apprentice?

**A:** No, the apprentice's pay is covered by Professional Interpreting Enterprise and grants that are available.

**Q:** Is the apprentice licensed?

**A:** The apprentice may or may not have their Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) which is why the apprentice is never to work alone and will always be paired with a certified/licensed interpreter.

**Q:** What will the apprentice do during the appointment?

**A:** The apprentice will work with their team and the patient to decide what is best for language and communication. The apprentice will be observing as well as interpreting throughout the appointment.

**Q:** Who is supervising the apprentice?

**A:** Leia Sparks and Amy Fryman are the apprentice's direct supervisors. They can be reached by phone or email.

**Q:** Between the certified/licensed interpreter and the apprentice, who is the lead during the appointment?

**A:** The certified/licensed interpreter will always be the lead in the appointment.

**Q:** If the patient is uncomfortable with the apprentice presence at the appointment, what does the medical staff need to do?

**A:** At any time the patient is uncomfortable or requests that the apprentice not join for all or parts of the appointment, the apprentice will leave and wait outside the room or in the waiting room until the end of the appointment or until the patient is comfortable for the apprentice to rejoin the appointment. (Ex: A colonoscopy. The patient is fine with the apprentice doing the pre-op questions and preparation and then asks that the apprentice not go back to the procedure room for the actual colonoscopy. Once the patient is back in the recovery room, then the apprentice rejoins and finishes out the appointment).