



Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

## **Introduction to the Provisional Deaf Interpreter Credential (PDIC)**

Hello! In order to introduce our plan to offer temporary credentialing to Deaf interpreters, we want to share with you the process of how it was developed. We hope you find this information helpful - we will share additional information with you soon.

On August 4, 2015, the RID Board of Directors placed a moratorium on the NIC and CDI performance exams, and the written and performance exams for the SC:L and OTC. The reasons for the moratorium and the subsequent actions related to it have been well documented - detailed information can be found in the following archive located on the RID website:  
<http://www.rid.org/testing-certification-news-library/>.

During the RID Board of Directors Meeting on March 16-20, 2016, several actions related to testing and certification were determined:

- It was determined that for the foreseeable future, RID will focus on testing and certification for general competence—specifically the development of written and performance exams included in the certification requirements for the Deaf and hearing interpreter certifications.
- It was determined that test development and maintenance, used in supporting RID’s certification process, should be separated from RID’s organizational structure by establishing a separate LLC. CASLI, LLC was launched July 1, 2016.
- It was determined that the scope of work for the new LLC would be the development of written and performance tests for use in the NIC and CDI certification processes. During the 2017 LEAD Together Conference Testing and Certification Forum, the CASLI Board announced the implementation of a process allowing for the simultaneous development of both tests. They have an aggressive timeline, and expect that the exams will be released at the end of 2019 or the beginning of 2020.
- It was determined that resuming the current iteration of the CDI performance exam was not possible, as its life cycle had expired. Subsequently, it was determined that a temporary credential should be offered as a bridge for Deaf interpreters until such time as the new exam is available. To that end, a workgroup for defining the temporary credentialing process was authorized.

During a meeting on December 8-11, 2016, the workgroup presented their proposal to both the RID and CASLI boards. Within the recommendations of the workgroup were two unique elements that pertain to performance testing. First, they recommended that a verification of ASL competence should be included in the PDIC process—such as a minimum score on the ASLPI or a similar assessment. Second, they recommended the establishment of an observation process in order to validate interpreting skills performance.

The addition of performance standards for a provisional credential created several challenges for RID:

- The requirement for an ASL competence assessment is not in place for any current RID certification, including the most recent iteration of the CDI. This requirement would then surpass the intention of a bridge plan. Furthermore, ASL competence assessments are not widely available, and add additional expense for individuals seeking to obtain the PDIC. These two factors make such criteria unrealistic.
- RID uses a test development process through its subsidiary CASLI that follows the testing and credentialing industry standards. The recommendations of the workgroup to add the ASLPI and an observation process bypasses the process already established under the authority of the CASLI Testing Committee. The RID board determined that whatever requirements are put into place for the PDIC cannot intrude on or bypass the established procedures for test development.
- Until conference motion 2007.04 regarding the establishment and adoption of criteria for recognizing tests other than RID's by the membership is operationalized, the RID Board does not have the authority to adopt a test developed by an entity outside of RID.
- Additional cost would be incurred by applicants.
- To implement a performance assessment element in the PDIC process would require CASLI to develop observation criteria, measurement standards, and training for the observers. There are not adequate funds or resources available to interrupt the Deaf Interpreter exam development process for the establishment of such requirements for the PDIC.

Taking into consideration both the recommendations of the workgroup and the limitations that exist, a process was developed that includes attestations of interpreting competence by qualified experts in lieu of a performance assessment. This process utilizes an expert-based recommendation and affirmation of sufficient interpreting competence in order for a Deaf interpreter to be credentialed in a provisional capacity. The PDIC will function as a bridge until such time as a valid and reliable performance test for Deaf interpreters is available.

We understand the importance of getting more qualified Deaf Interpreters out into the field to work and serve in the community. These professionals need the credential to show that they are upholding a commitment to ongoing professional development and to the NAD-RID Code of Professional Conduct, which ultimately protects all consumers - Deaf and hearing, from unethical practices.

RID is excited to announce that the PDIC application process will be available very soon!

The PDIC will be awarded to eligible individuals who satisfy all previous requirements to take the CDI performance exam, and submit the required application form with approved attestations of language and interpreting competence. The RID Board and Headquarters recognize how the field and aspiring practitioners have been adversely impacted by the delay in the release of the new Deaf Interpreter performance exam. To that end, while developing this process, we have decided to absorb the operational cost of administering this temporary credential into the RID operations budget and offer the PDIC at no charge.

Again, more information will become available – please watch for that to be shared soon.