

Michael Ahimsa
Sign Language Interpreter
University of Connecticut Interpreting Services
michael.ahimsa@uconn.edu

Professional Experience

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| <u>University of Connecticut Interpreting Services</u> | Sign Language Interpreter | <i>Storrs, Connecticut</i> 2016.10.28 – present |
| <i>General interpreting duties* throughout the University of Connecticut community, within academic and social spheres, including course instruction, lectures, exams, seminars, field trips, and direct overheard conversations; 2) Serve as an authoritative resource to students, parents, the public, and the University community, regarding interpreting services and providing visual access for Deaf and hard-of-hearing students; 3) Prepare for demanding course material by reading course materials, learning frequently used vocabulary, and developing new signs as necessary; 4) Team interpret as necessary to ensure fluent interpretation with minimal errors and to maintain interpreters' physical safety; 5) Assist Leadership in the development of policies, procedures, and plans for Deaf and hard-of-hearing students, and Associate Director with scheduling, identifying, and evaluating additional qualified interpreters as needed; 6) Assist in providing training to individuals who are Deaf and hard-of-hearing, related to note-taking and closed caption services; 7) Perform necessary administrative duties such as supervision and maintenance of files and preparation of reports; 8) Perform special projects, as needed or assigned; 9) Maintain professional memberships, certifications, and keep abreast of new developments in the field through attendance at workshops, seminars, conferences, training sessions, and through interaction with professional colleagues.</i> | | |
| <u>Source Interpreting</u> | Sign Language Interpreter | <i>West Hartford, Connecticut</i> 2016.07 – present |
| <i>General interpreting duties in addition to medical, legal, education, business, Deafblind/ Low Vision, highly-visual / emergent communication, LGBTQ, and performing arts settings.</i> | | |
| <u>Partners Interpreting</u> | Sign Language Interpreter | <i>Plainville, Massachusetts</i> 2016.07 – present |
| <i>General interpreting duties in addition to medical, legal, education, business, Deafblind/ Low Vision, highly-visual / emergent communication, LGBTQ, and performing arts settings.</i> | | |
| <u>LifeBridge Community Services</u> | Sign Language Interpreter | <i>Bridgeport, Connecticut</i> 2016.07 – present |
| <i>General interpreting duties in addition to medical, legal, education, business, Deafblind/ Low Vision, highly-visual / emergent communication, LGBTQ, and performing arts settings.</i> | | |
| <u>State of Connecticut – Department of Rehabilitation Services – Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing Services Division – Interpreting Unit</u> | Sign Language Interpreter | <i>Hartford, Connecticut</i> 2013.02 – 2016.07 |
| <i>General interpreting duties in addition to medical, legal, education, business, Deafblind/ Low Vision, highly-visual / emergent communication, LGBTQ, and performing arts settings.</i> | | |
| <u>Family Services Woodfield</u> | Sign Language Interpreter | <i>Bridgeport, Connecticut</i> 2011.09 – 2014.12 |
| <i>General interpreting duties in addition to medical, legal, education, business, Deafblind/ Low Vision, highly-visual / emergent communication, LGBTQ, and performing arts settings.</i> | | |
| <u>Sorenson Video Relay Service</u> | Video Relay Interpreter | <i>Saint Cloud, Minnesota</i> 2009.03 – 2011.06 |
| <i>General interpreting duties in addition to the Video Relay setting.</i> | | |
| <u>Z Video Relay Service</u> | Video Relay Interpreter | <i>Saint Cloud, Minnesota</i> 2007.11 – 2008.12 |
| <i>General interpreting duties in addition to the Video Relay setting.</i> | | |

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| <u>American Sign Language Interpreting Services</u> | Sign Language Interpreter | Corcoran, Minnesota 2007.10 – 2011.08 |
| <i>General interpreting duties in addition to medical, legal, education, business, Deafblind/ Low Vision, highly-visual / emergent communication, LGBTQ, performing arts, and Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) settings.</i> | | |
| <u>Bridge World Language Services</u> | Sign Language Interpreter | Waite Park, Minnesota 2007.09 – 2011.08 |
| <i>General interpreting duties in addition to medical, legal, education, business, Deafblind/ Low Vision, highly-visual / emergent communication, LGBTQ, and performing arts settings.</i> | | |
| <u>Communication Services for the Deaf</u> | Sign Language Interpreter | Saint Paul, Minnesota 2006.09 – 2011.08 |
| <i>General interpreting duties in addition to medical, legal, education, business, Deafblind/ Low Vision, highly-visual / emergent communication, LGBTQ, performing arts, and Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) settings.</i> | | |
| <u>Independent School District #742</u> | Sign Language Interpreter | Saint Cloud, Minnesota 2004.12 – 2006.04 |
| <i>General interpreting duties in addition to functioning in the educational setting with the ability to understand, implement, and complying with students' Individualized Education Plans (IEPs); inform and discuss students' programs, and inform and advise the educational team; understand basic information regarding schools, learning, development, and teaching; and interpret for highly-visual and emerging communicators.</i> | | |
| <u>Vital Signs Interpreting</u> | Owner & Sign Language Interpreter | Saint Cloud, Minnesota 2004.01 – 2006.09 |
| <i>General interpreting duties in addition to medical, legal, education, business, Deafblind/ Low Vision, highly-visual / emergent communication, LGBTQ, and performing arts settings. Procuring client contracts, hiring and management of independently-contracted interpreters, processing of client requests, interpreter referrals, billing, and payroll.</i> | | |

***General Interpreting Duties:**

Facilitate communication between Deaf, Deafblind, Hard-of-Hearing, and hearing individuals, via American Sign Language and spoken English; function in accordance with federal, state, and local laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID's) Code of Professional Conduct; possess linguistic understanding, fluency, and command of American Sign Language (ASL) and spoken/written English; exhibit keen cognitive and technical expertise to render cross-cultural interpretations accurately, effectively, and impartially; maintain emotional capacity and physical stamina to handle assignment themes; exude integrity, the utmost regard for ethical standards, and adherence to the strictest of confidentiality; Do No Harm.

***Specialty Interpreting Settings:**

Performing arts, Deafblind/low vision, highly-visual / emergent communication, LGBTQ, medical, video remote.

***Past Interpreting Experience:**

Performing Arts: *Professional, collegiate, community, and school theaters for drama, musicals, comedy, drag.*
Deafblind/Low Vision: *International conferences, national camps, statewide camps, events, trainings, meetings.*
Medical: *Emergency, hospital, clinical, in-patient, out-patient, mental health, therapy, specialty.*
Legal: *Law enforcement, investigations, corrections, minimal judicial.*
Education: *Post-doctoral, doctoral, graduate, undergraduate, technical, transition, 18-21, K-12, Birth-3.*
Business: *Conferences, corporate, workshops, trainings, meetings, vocational.*
Video Remote (VRI): *Function autonomously in an on-demand, fast-paced environment, by quickly accessing and utilizing emerging and evolving video conferencing technology to process connections and facilitate communication for extended periods of time.*
Video Relay (VRS): *Fast-paced, highly regulated, dynamic, customer service-focused environment; Demonstrate full compliance with Federal Communication Commission (FCC) regulations and Video Relay Service (VRS) standards and policies; Possess the ability to quickly learn and implement new and changing technologies, work effectively in a team environment with oversight that includes call monitoring, mentoring and evaluations, and receive support from and provide support to colleagues; Sit for extended periods of time at a desk using computer and video equipment while processing calls for extended periods of time.*

Academic Degrees & Programs

| | |
|--|---|
| <u>The Graduate Institute</u> Master of Arts in Integrative Health & Healing Certificate in Ecotherapy & Cultural Sustainability | <i>Bethany, Connecticut</i> Currently Pursuing |
| <u>Charter Oak State College</u> Baccalaureate of Science in General Studies | <i>New Britain, Connecticut</i> 2013.08 |
| <u>Saint Paul College</u> Associate of Applied Science in American Sign Language Interpretation/Transliteration | <i>Saint Paul, Minnesota</i> 2004.05 |
| <u>Saint Cloud State University</u> Associate of Arts in General Studies | <i>Saint Cloud, Minnesota</i> 2001.12 |
| <u>Saint Cloud Technical and Community College</u> Certification of Emergency Medical Technician | <i>Saint Cloud, Minnesota</i> 2000.03 |

Certifications, Registrations, Affiliations, Additional Training

| | | |
|---|--------------|-----------|
| Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Member & Certification | NIC-Advanced | 2016-2017 |
| National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Member & Certification | NAD-III | 2016-2017 |
| National Association of Interpreters in Education (NAEI) | Member | 2016-2017 |
| State of Connecticut – Department of Rehabilitation Services (DoRS) | Registered | 2016-2017 |
| Emergency Medical Technician | Certified | 2016-2018 |
| Healthcare Provider Basic Life Support (CPR & AED) | Certified | 2016-2018 |

Noteworthy Clients

| | |
|--|--|
| American Association of the Deafblind | <i>United States</i> |
| American School for the Deaf | <i>West Hartford, CT</i> |
| The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts | <i>Hartford, CT</i> |
| College of Saint Scholastica | <i>Saint Cloud, MN</i> |
| Connecticut Children's Medical Center | <i>Hartford, CT</i> |
| Deafblind Services Minnesota | <i>Minnesota</i> |
| Hartford Hospital | <i>Hartford, CT</i> |
| Lighthouse for the Blind | <i>Seattle, WA</i> |
| Minneapolis Business College | <i>Minnesota</i> |
| Minnesota Deafblind Association | <i>Minnesota</i> |
| Minnesota Fringe Festival | <i>Minneapolis, MN</i> |
| Minnesota Renaissance Festival | <i>Minnesota</i> |
| Minnesota State Fair | <i>Saint Paul, MN</i> |
| National Association for the Advancement of Colored People | <i>Saint Cloud, MN</i> |
| Norwegian Cruise Lines | <i>International</i> |
| Paramount Theater | <i>Saint Cloud, MN</i> |
| Princess Cruise Lines | <i>International</i> |
| Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines | <i>International</i> |
| Saint Cloud Hospital | <i>Saint Cloud, MN</i> |
| Saint Cloud State University | <i>Saint Cloud, MN</i> |
| Saint Cloud Technical & Community College | <i>Saint Cloud, MN</i> |
| Saint Francis Hospital & Medical Center | <i>Hartford, CT</i> |
| Seabeck | <i>Seattle, WA</i> |
| University of Connecticut | <i>Storrs, Connecticut</i> |
| University of Minnesota | <i>Duluth, Saint Paul, & Minneapolis, MN</i> |
| Yale University | <i>New Haven, CT</i> |
| Yale-New Haven Hospital | <i>New Haven, CT</i> |