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Emergency Sign Language Interpreter Program (ESLIP)

King County and the City of Seattle are committed to ensuring that all individuals have equal access to critical government programs and services. ESLIP, a program started in 1998, is funded in partnership by King County and City of Seattle government. The intent of this program is to ensure effective communication between county and city staff and people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and hard of hearing in non-medical emergency situations.

Program Summary

The Emergency Sign Language Interpreter Program (ESLIP) provides sign language interpreters for emergency and time-sensitive situations on a 24-hour basis, 365-days-a-year for King County and City of Seattle programs.

When is ESLIP Used?

Some examples of situations when sign language interpreters are called include, but are not limited to, the following:

Police situations

- interview with a witness, victim or suspect, Deaf parents of minor children who are involved in a criminal investigation
- notification of rights, Miranda warnings, during interrogation or when taking a statement

Post-arrest situations

- jail booking, personal recognizance interview, and first arraignment

Other situations

- individual is seeking protection orders, during initial meeting with attorney (meetings prior to the arraignment)

Questions?

If you have questions about this program, or have used ESLIP interpreters and have feedback or comments, please contact:

Roxanne Vierra, Disability Compliance Specialist

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