



Arizona Commission

for the deaf and the hard of hearing

100 N 15th Avenue □ Suite 104 □ Phoenix, AZ 85007
acdhh.org

Minutes from the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, Special Board Meeting.

Meeting held July 22nd, 2025 at 4:30 pm.

The meeting was held via Zoom Teleconference.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Sienko called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM.

Commissioners present: Catherine Sienko, Sarah Bolmarcich, Randal Kidd, Diana Herron, Sarah Bolmarcich, Debbie Venkatesh, Virginia Thompson, Lisa Swenson

Commissioners absent: Scott Madsen, Andrew Cohen, Virginia Thompson, Melanie O'Rourke, Harvey Goodstein

AAG: Elise Phalen,

Staff Present: Nikki Soukup, Carmen Green Smith, Shari Burda, Chyla Dalton-Nava

Public Comments

Public comments on interpreter complaints were given by the following:

P.Lanette Pinkard: live comments on the extension she is requesting in her case.

Marie Tavormina: live comments on the complaint filed against her.

Interpreter Complaints

Regarding P.Lanette Pinkard: Victoria Vaughn gave a brief summary of the complaint- In April 2025, the Board ruled to have Ms Pinkard complete five hours of ethics based workshops. Since the ruling during the April 2025 meeting, Ms. Pinkard lost her husband and she was unable to complete the hours within the timeline given. She requested an extension for the time to be allowed to complete the 5 hours. The staff does not have authority to grant or deny the extension request so this matter was brought to the board to approve or deny the extension request.

Commissioner Kidd moves to grant an extension as requested for Ms. Pinkard. A discussion followed. Commissioner Herron asked Victoria to clarify the amount of time asked for, and it was explained that Ms Pinkard will be attending the NBDA conference from August 13th-August 16th where she will be completing those required workshop hours. Victoria recommended a 30 day window after the conferences end to allow time for the paperwork to be completed and submitted. **Commissioner Kidd moves that extension of 30 days after the NBDA conference be granted to Ms Pinkard to complete her five hours of ethics training be granted; Commissioner Williams seconds the motion, the motion carries unanimously.**

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Regarding Casey Kasperson: The complaint against Casey Kasperson, filed by Matthew Brown, alleges that Mr. Kasperson worked in a setting prohibited by his license type. Specifically, Mr. Brown states that during a teamed interpreting assignment, Mr. Kasperson continued to work alone after Mr. Brown's departure. In Arizona, a provisional licensee must work every assignment with either a generalist or a legally licensed interpreter. The allegation is that Mr. Kasperson stayed and interpreted alone after Mr. Brown, who was teaming with him on this particular assignment, left. She stated that within the board report packet provided to the commissioners prior to the meeting there is email correspondence with the interpreting agency. This correspondence, between the agency coordinator and Mr. Brown, confirms that another interpreter with a generalist or legal license was not available to team with Mr. Kasperson for the assignment in question. Consequently, Mr. Kasperson was informed that he would be working alone, and the agency was aware of this arrangement. The investigator found the claim substantiated, and the recommended action for this case is a five-day suspension.

Commissioner Herron moves that Casey Kasperson's provisional license be suspended for five days. A discussion followed. Commissioner Swenson was concerned with the agency pushing the interpreter to work alone, and felt that a discussion with the agency was warranted. Victoria explained that as an agency, we do not have regulatory authority over interpreting agencies or other businesses, which has been a recurring issue. In this specific scenario, the interpreter's replies indicated a clear understanding of their license limitations, as they never expressed a lack of knowledge or questioned if they had done something wrong. Commissioner Scarborough expressed her concerns that the interpreter in question's side of the story was not being taken into consideration-as according to their side of the story, they stated that they did not interpret without a team present. Additionally, the interpreter who filed the complaint was not present to witness him interpreting. She also expressed concern with the Deaf consumers who were interviewed, who stated that they could not remember whether or not he interpreted the assignment alone. The commissioners continued the discussion.

Commissioner Bolmarcich moved that Mr. Kasperson take 5 hours of Class C interpreting workshop training; Commissioner Scarborough seconds the motion, the motion carries unanimously. Victoria asked for clarification on the requirements- on whether there were any specific requirements on the type of training, and also if there was a time frame on when the training would need to be completed. Commissioner Sienko agreed with this, and stated that this is consistent with previous rulings. Commissioner



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Kidd moves to amend Commissioner Bolmarcich's motion to specify that Mr Kasperson complete five clock hours of ethics training within 60 days; Commissioner Scarboro

seconds the motion, the vote was carried out by roll call with the commissioners voting as follows:

Bolmarcich: Aye

Herron: Aye

Kidd: Aye

Scarboro: Aye

Sienko: Aye

Swenson: Aye

Venkatesh: Aye

Williams: Aye

Regarding Marie Tavormina: Victoria Vaughn gave a brief summary of the complaint-Mr. Diaz has filed a complaint alleging unprofessional conduct by Ms. Tavormina during a September 2024 court hearing where Mr. Diaz was the defendant. Specifically, Mr. Diaz claims that Ms. Tavormina refused to converse with him, exhibited a poor attitude, and did not fully interpret his lawyer's statements. The investigation indicates that the allegations lack substantiation. This conclusion is based on witness statements and Ms. Tavormina's extensive experience as a professional legal interpreter within this court setting. Witness accounts consistently describe her as highly professional, both in this instance and in previous interactions. Therefore, these allegations do not appear to be valid. I recommend dismissing this case due to the inability to corroborate or find any evidence of inappropriate conduct during her court appointment. **Commissioner Herron moved to dismiss the case against Ms. Tavormina due to insufficient evidence; Commissioner Kidd seconds, the motion carries unanimously.**

Revisit Interpreter Licensure Committee Complaint Process

Commissioner Sienko opens the discussion by refreshing the memory of the board on the decision that was made at the February 20th, Board meeting, where the board voted that all interpreter complaints that were received after February 21st, 2025 would be initially reviewed by the Interpreter Licensing Committee before coming to the full board for a final decision. Due to the existing backlog of complaints, several commissioners have expressed concerns about this process and are interested in discussing or amending it. A discussion followed. Commissioner Herron asked if amending the date of complaints the ILC will start reviewing would alleviate the problem of the backlog we currently have. Elise explained that using the Interpreter Licensing Committee (ILC) to review interpreter

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complaints could streamline the complaint review process, ultimately reducing discussion time during full board meetings. Currently, the ILC can review all received complaints, but statutory limitations prevent them from making final decisions. These decisions must be

made by the larger board. However, by allowing the ILC to conduct an initial review and offer recommendations, the process would become more efficient, enabling the ILC to fulfill

its intended purpose earlier in the complaint resolution timeline. This change would significantly shorten the time spent individually discussing complaints at board meetings.

Commissioner Scarborough moves that all current active complaints be assigned to the ILC for review; Commissioner Bolmarcich seconds the motion, Commissioner Herron asks for clarification prior to the vote-and asks if the committee will have clear instructions and understanding of these cases, or will they require Board discussion and final approval before taking action, and Elise explains that as a subcommittee, the ILC will not have the authority to take any sort of action when it comes to complaints or interpreter complaints.

She explained that all complaints will still need to come before the full board for a final decision. **The motion on the floor was carried unanimously.**

Adjournment

Commissioner Bolmarcich moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:44 PM, Commissioner Sienk seconded the motion; the meeting adjourned at 5:44 PM

Dated this 25th day of June, 2025, Randal Kidd, Secretary

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the attached notice was duly posted this 23rd day of June, 2025 at 5:00 pm by Chyla Dalton-Nava, Assistant to the Executive Director.