



## THELMA KOTZÉ

**Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Translation and Interpreting**

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### PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

An experienced International and South African Sign Language Interpreter with experience in Tactile South African Sign Language, One-Hand Fingerspelling, Two-Hand Fingerspelling, English and Afrikaans Spoken Languages, and Lip Speaking Interpreting Services to Afrikaans / English deaf persons that do not use South African Sign Language; Thelma Kotzé offers close to 3 decades of Interpretation Knowledge with a complementing, diverse vocabulary for English speaking audiences across the globe.

The owner of the South African Sign Language Interpreting National Centre (SASLINC) (the first, professional South African Sign Language interpreting services agency); Thelma manages a team of freelance South African Sign Language Interpreters well-qualified in delivering a range of South African Sign Language interpretation services, solidifying her commitment to providing equal access to Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients. Championing a culture of service excellence, founded on a strong academic foundation, she remains dedicated to the professional development of both herself [evident by an extensive qualification and training portfolio] and her employees.

Demonstrating a passion for the human rights of Deaf and Hard of Hearing People; a deep understanding of linguistic, social, and cultural influences that impact interactions; involvement in the development of training material for SASL interpreting; and having offered interpreter training in South Africa and two other African countries, Thelma retains a unique set of skills and capabilities that position her as an expert within her profession and specialisation both on a local and international scale.

Her future ambitions include becoming a holistic counsellor, practising within the Deaf community, as well as the ongoing empowerment and support of South African Sign Language interpreters.

**Professional Affiliations:** South African Translators Institute (SATI) | World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) | World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) Individual Member |

### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| - <i>Improvement of Conditions to enable Productive Communication on All Sides</i>                    | - <i>Cultural Sensitivity</i>  | - <i>Interpreter Co-ordination / Interpreting Services Co-ordination</i> |
| - <i>Development of Training &amp; Educational Materials</i>  | - <i>Regulatory Compliance</i>   | - <i>Team Leadership</i>   |
| - <i>Clear Interpretation &amp; Communication of a range of Subject Matter (Simple &amp; Complex)</i> | - <i>Interpreting Quality Assurance</i>                                  | - <i>Training &amp; Mentoring</i>  |
| - <i>Advanced Language Knowledge</i>  | - <i>Research</i>  | - <i>Stakeholder Relations &amp; Networking</i>                          |
|   | - <i>Best Practice Interpreting &amp; Review Process</i>                 | - <i>Cross-Organisational / Cross-Functional Collaboration</i>           |
|   | - <i>Sound Interpreting Judgement</i>                                    | - <i>Professional Practice</i>   |
|   | - <i>Offering Professional Development to Sign Language Interpreters</i> |  |

## KEY CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- **International Sign Interpreter** for the XIX World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), 2023.
- **Board Member** of the South African Language Practitioners' Council. (2023)
- **Provides pro-bono South African Sign Language interpreting services** in the most marginalised communities in South Africa.
- **Council Member** of the South African Translators Institute (SATI), 2015 – 2016.
- **Served on the Standards Generating Body (SGB)** for South African Sign Language: 2004 to 2007.
- **Co-developed the South African Sign Language Interpreter Training Material** for UNISA's Programme in South African Sign Language Interpreting, 2005.
- **Managed the planning and execution of the World Association** for Sign Language Interpreter's Conference in Cape Town, 2005.
- **One of the First cohorts of South African Sign Language Interpreters to be accredited** by the South African Translator's Institute (SATI), 2004.
- **National Chairperson** of South African Sign Language Interpreting Association South Africa, 1999.
- **Received an award in recognition of good professional practice** in Conference Interpreting by the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB), 1998.
- **Coordinator of National and Provincial South African Sign Language Interpreting Services** basis, 1995.

## INTERPRETING SETTINGS / SECTORS

**United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA);** 2021 to Date

**Various National, Regional and International Conferences and Meetings;** 1995 to Date

**Television Interpreting;** 2007 to Date: Live News Broadcasts | Live Special Broadcasts (State of the Nation Address), Budget Speech, Peoples' Parliament | Live Broadcasts of the South African Reserve Bank and Monetary Policy Committee Statements | Live Sports Wrap Bulletins | Pre-Recorded Sport Related Programmes

**Religious;** 1995 to Date

**Conference;** 1995 to Date

**Legal;** 1995 to Date

**Medical;** 1995 to Date

**Business;** 1995 to Date

**Educational;** 2000 to 2018

## LANGUAGE & INTERPRETING LANGUAGE COMBINATIONS

Languages: English: C2 | Afrikaans: C2 | South African Sign Language: C2 | Namibian Sign Language: B2 | International Sign: C1

Sign Language Interpreting Language Combinations: English – SASL – English (1994 – Current) | Afrikaans SASL – Afrikaans (1994 – Current) | English – International Sign – English (2007, 2021 – current)

## PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS

**Moderator Registration (F01 / 585 / MOD001833);** ETDP SETA, 2019

**Assessor Registration (F01 / 585 / ASR002756);** ETDP SETA, 2019

**International Sign Interpreter Accreditation;** WFD-WASLI, 2023

**South African Sign Language (SASL) – English Accreditation;** South African Translators Institute, 2004

## **TRAINING PRESENTED**

**National Diploma Liaison Interpreting;** Employ and Empower Deaf (Pty) Ltd. (eDeaf), 2021

**Introduction to Namibian Sign Language Interpreting;** Namibian Association for the Deaf, 2021

**Introduction to South African Sign Language Interpreting;** Government and Privately Funded, 2016

**Introduction to South African Sign Language Interpreting;** University of the Witwatersrand, 2010

**Introduction to Mauritian Sign Language Interpreting;** Wits Language School, 2009

**Introduction to South African Sign Language (SASL) Interpreting;** UNISA, 2005

**Introduction to South African Sign Language Interpreting;** Centre for Deaf Studies Wits University, 2003

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

**Diploma in Counselling and Communication;** South African College of Applied Psychology, *In Progress*

**Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Translation and Interpreting;** University of the Witwatersrand, 2012

**Senior Certificate / Matric;** Hoërskool Jeugland, 1989

## **COURSES & TRAINING ATTENDED**

**Assessor and Moderator Qualification (Registered Assessor & Moderator for ETDP, SETA);** PMADS Holdings (Pty) Ltd, 2018

**SASLI Professional Development Workshop on Medical Interpreting;** South African Translator's Institute (SATI), 2013

**Training of the Trainers Seminar;** International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC), Nairobi, 2012

**Specialised Conference Interpreting Practice;** University of the Witwatersrand, 2010

**Introduction to Conference Interpreting;** University of the Witwatersrand, 2010

**Orientation to Sign Language Interpreting;** University of the Free State, 1997

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**(CURRENT)**

***South African Sign Language Interpreting  
National Centre CC (SASLINC)***

*July 2006 to Date*

**Owner | Managing Member | SASL Interpreter | Trainer**

- Services include: SASL interpreter service | Co-ordination of SASL interpreter service | SASL interpreter training | SASL interpreter consultation service | SASL interpreter mentorship programme | Training of Deaf community members and other institutions on the correct use of SASL interpreters.

- Services are provided to Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients in the legal, medical, educational, and corporate sectors.

## PRIOR TENURES

**University of the Witwatersrand**

*January 2002 to June 2006*

**South African Sign Language Interpreter**

- Provided interpretation services to the South African Sign Language Department of the School of Literature and Language Studies (Faculty of Humanities).

## EARLIER EMPLOYMENT SYNOPSIS

*Pieter Cilliers Productions*

*March 1999 to September 2001*

**SASL Interpreter & Assistant Producer**

*Deaf Federation of South Africa*

*April 1995 to February 1999*

**South African Sign Language Interpreter**

## EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE QUOTIENT & PROFESSIONAL STRENGTHS

*(Essential Interpersonal Attributes / People Skills)*

- **Extensive experience in accurately interpreting** spoken language to sign language and interpreting sign to spoken language for a range of professional, government, and educational purposes.
- **Maintains awareness of best practices**, emerging trends, and new legislation relating to the Sign Language / Interpreting functional area.
- **Excellent communication**, interpersonal and leadership skills.
- **Demonstrated organisational skills** in handling, directing, and prioritising multiple and complex assignments / projects.
- **A natural relationship builder** with a proven history of connecting with diverse individuals from across the globe.
- **Unwavering quality standards** and highly customer service oriented.
- **Fluidly adapts to changing circumstances** that arise during assignments.

## PERSONAL DETAILS

<b>Date of Birth, Nationality</b>	16 June 1971, South African
<b>Languages</b>	English   Afrikaans   South African Sign Language   International Sign
<b>Driver's License</b>	Code 08
<b>Marital Status</b>	Married
<b>References &amp; Certificates</b>	<i>Presented upon request.</i>
<b>Availability</b>	<i>Discussed upon request.</i>