

NOTICE OF PUBLIC RULE HEARING AND BOARD MEETING

The New Mexico Signed Language Interpreting Practices Board and the Regulations and Licensing Department will hold a rule hearing on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., immediately followed by a meeting of the Signed Language Interpreting Practices Board for adoption of the proposed rules listed below. The hearing and subsequent board meeting will be held at the Regulation and Licensing Department, located at 5500 San Antonio Dr. NE., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109.

The meeting will also be held via Microsoft Teams for those desiring to attend virtually.

Meeting Link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_M2VjNmViMDAtMzVkOC00YWQ1LWFiYTYtMzUwODNmODVhNWNl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2204aa6bf4-d436-426f-bfa4-04b7a70e60ff%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22f2bc0bd3-22ab-403d-bd06-7bb3d078e5e1%22%7d

Or <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>

Meeting ID: 214 609 745 429 5

Passcode: QH2tu3Fu

Dial in by phone

+1 505-312-4308,917686325# United States, Albuquerque

Phone conference ID: 917 686 325#

The purpose of the rule hearing is to consider the initiation of rulemaking for the following rules:

Rule 16.28.1 NMAC – General Provisions

Rule 16.28.2 NMAC – Licensure Requirements

Rule 16.28.3 NMAC – Requirements for Establishments

Rule 16.28.4 NMAC – Enforcement, Complaints and Disciplinary Action

Rule 16.28.6 NMAC – Fees

Rule 16.28.7 NMAC – Licensure for Military Service Members, Spouses and Veterans

On Friday, December 5, 2025, copies of the proposed rules may be obtained through the New Mexico Signed Language Interpreting Practices Board website at <https://www.rld.nm.gov/boards-and-commissions/individual-boards-and-commissions/signed-language-interpreting-practices/board-information/signed-language-interpreting-practices-board-meetings/> or by contacting the Board Administrator, Emma Quintana at signlanguage.board@rld.nm.gov or (505) 476-4622.

The New Mexico Signed Language Interpreting Practices Board and Regulation and Licensing Department will begin accepting written public comment regarding the proposed rule changes on Friday, December 5, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. and ending Saturday, January 3, 2026, 8:00 a.m. Written comments may be submitted by email to signlanguage.board@rld.nm.gov or by postal mail to the following address:

New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department
Attn: New Mexico Signed Language Interpreting Practices
P.O. Box 25101
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Written Comments received during the public comment period (December 5, 2025 – January 3, 2026) will be posted to the website page above. Public comments will also be accepted during the rule hearing and may be submitted in writing or presented orally by those attending in-person. The members of the New Mexico Signed Language Interpreting Practices Board will not enter substantive discussion of public comments during the rule hearing but will consider and deliberate any public comment during the regular board meeting immediately following the conclusion of the public rule hearing.

The agenda for the New Mexico Signed Language Interpreting Practices Board regular meeting, which will begin immediately after the public rule hearing, will be available no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting, and available on the website page above or by contacting the Board Administrator, Emma Quintana at signlanguage.board@rld.nm.gov or (505) 476-4622.

If you are an individual with a disability who needs a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or the regular board meeting, please contact the Board Administrator Emma Quintana at signlanguage.board@rld.nm.gov (505) 476-4622 at least 7 days prior to the rule hearing and regular board meeting. Public documents, including the proposed rules, meeting agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats.

For inclement weather: If New Mexico state offices are placed on a two-hour delay due to inclement weather, the rule hearing will be pushed back two hours from the noticed hearing time. If New Mexico state offices are closed due to inclement weather, the rule hearing will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

Statutory Authority: The rule changes are authorized by the Signed Language Interpreting Practices Act (Act), Section 61-34-1 through 61-34-17 NMSA 1978, which provides explicit authority for the Signed Language Interpreting Practices Board to protect public health and safety and adopt rules for the administration Act. The rulemaking and public rule hearing is governed by the State Rules Act, Sections 14-4-1 through 14-4-11 NMSA 1978, and the Default Procedural Rule for Rulemaking promulgated by the New Mexico Department of Justice, Parts 1.24.25.1 through 1.24.25.16 NMAC.

Purpose of the Proposed Rules: The proposed rule changes are intended to update and expand definitions; modernize the licensure process by requiring online applications and remove outdated references to paper applications; and add a \$35.00 fee for returned checks, and a \$10.00 administrative electronic licensing fee per year. More generally, the proposed rules are intended to provide greater clarity in existing regulatory and statutory requirements, ensure continued high levels of professionalism among licensees and certificate holders, and to generally satisfy the Board's statutory obligation to promote, preserve and protect the public health, safety and welfare.

Summary of Proposed Changes:

16.28.1 NMAC – General Provisions. Clarify the definition of “quorum”.

16.28.2 NMAC – Education and Continuing Education Requirements. Update language.

16.28.3 NMAC – Application and Licensure Requirements. Update language to reflect that applications are on an online licensing system.

16.28.4 NMAC – Complaint Procedures; Adjudicatory Proceedings. Shorten complaint response times, and allow immediate license suspension for serious risk, while also explicitly stating that continuing education non-compliance is subject to discipline.

16.28.6 NMAC – Fees. Add two additional fees, first, a \$35.00 fee for returned checks, and the second fee is a \$10.00 administrative electronic licensing fee per year. Also introduce the standard for auditing continuing education requirements for license renewal.

16.28.7 NMAC – Update language to reflect that applications are on an online licensing system.

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