

SOESD

Ethical Guidelines for Interpreters

Code of Professional Responsibility and Ethical Guidelines for Interpreters

I. Accuracy and Completeness

The interpreter shall render a complete and accurate interpretation or sight translation, without altering, omitting anything from, or adding to what is stated or written, and without explanation.

II. Representation of Qualifications

The interpreter shall accurately and completely represent his or her certifications, training and pertinent experience.

III. Impartiality And Avoidance of Conflict of Interest

The interpreter shall be impartial and unbiased and shall refrain from any conduct that may give an appearance of personal bias or conflict of interest.

The interpreter shall disclose to all participating parties involved any real personal bias, conflict or interest in the parties or the outcome of the situation.

IV. Professional Demeanor

The interpreter shall conduct him or herself in a manner consistent with the dignity of the profession and shall be as unobtrusive as possible.

V. Confidentiality

Interpreters shall understand the rules of privileged, confidential and or private information and shall protect the confidentiality of all privileged and other confidential information.

VI. Restriction of Public Comment

Interpreters shall not publicly discuss, report or offer an opinion concerning a matter in which they are or have been engaged, even when the information is not privileged or required by law to be confidential.

VII. Scope of Practice

Interpreters shall limit themselves to interpreting or sight translating and shall not give any kind of advice, express personal opinions to individuals they are interpreting for, or engage in any other practices that may be construed to constitute a service other than interpreting or translating.

VIII. Assessing and Reporting Impediments to Performance

Interpreters shall, at all times, assess their ability to deliver their services. When interpreters have any reservation about their ability to satisfy an assignment competently, they shall immediately convey that reservation to the parties involved.

IX. Duty to Report Ethical Violations

Interpreters shall report or communicate any action by other persons or situations that may impede the interpreter's compliance with any provision or guideline of this code.

X. Professional Development

The interpreter should continually improve his or her skills and knowledge and advance the profession through activities such as professional training and education and interaction with colleagues and specialists in related fields.