

## **Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters in the Delaware Judiciary**

**Applicability.** This Code shall be binding on all persons contracted by the Delaware Judiciary to provide foreign-language or sign-language interpretation services in connection with a procedure before any court in Delaware, or any other activity ordered by a court or conducted under the supervision of a court or its agent(s). In addition to complying with this Code of Professional Responsibility, interpreters shall follow rules imposed by each courthouse, institution, etc.

### **CANON 1: ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS**

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

### **CANON 2: IMPARTIALITY AND AVOIDANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The Court Interpreter shall fulfill a special duty to interpret accurately and faithfully without evidencing any personal bias, and avoiding even the appearance of partiality. Interpreter shall reveal any real or apparent conflict of interest or bias, including circumstances in which the interpreter had previous involvement in a case, with a party, a juror or whether the interpreter has a real or perceived personal or economic interest in the outcome of a case.

### **CANON 3: REPRESENTATION OF QUALIFICATIONS**

Interpreter shall accurately and completely represent his or her certifications, qualifications, training and pertinent experience.

### **CANON 4: PROFESSIONAL DEMEANOR**

Interpreter shall dress and conduct him or her in a manner consistent with the dignity of the court and shall be as unobtrusive as possible.

### **CANON 5: CONFIDENTIALITY**

Interpreter shall keep confidential all matters interpreted and all privileged conversations overheard between counsel and client. Interpreter shall not discuss a case pending before the court.

### **CANON 6: RESTRICTION OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

Interpreter shall not publicly discuss, report, or offer an opinion concerning a matter in which he or she is or has been engaged, even when that information is not privileged or required by law to be confidential.

### **CANON 7: SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

Interpreter shall limit him or herself to interpreting or sight translating, and shall not give legal advice, express personal opinions to individuals for whom he or she is interpreting, or engage in any other activities which may be construed to constitute a service other than interpreting or translating while serving as an interpreter.

**CANON 8: ASSESSING AND REPORTING IMPEDIMENTS TO PERFORMANCE**

Interpreter shall assess at all times his or her ability to deliver services. Whenever the interpreter has any reservation about his or her ability to satisfy an assignment competently, he she shall immediately convey that reservation to the appropriate judicial authority.

**CANON 9: DUTY TO REPORT ETHICAL VIOLATIONS**

Interpreter shall report to the proper judicial authority any effort to impede his or her compliance with any law, any provision of this code, or any other official policy governing court interpreting and legal translating.

**CANON 10: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Interpreter shall 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.