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PASSPORT TO LANGUAGES

"Kindness Connects Us All"

Code of Ethics for Healthcare Interpreters

A code of ethics has been established which sets forth principles of ethical behavior for interpreters. The principles are designed to protect and guide the interpreter, the non-English speaking consumer, and the professional utilizing the services of the interpreter. While these are general guidelines, it is recognized that there are ever increasing numbers of highly specialized situations that demand specific explanations and individualized behavior.

1. **Interpreters shall keep all assignment related information strictly confidential.**

Interpreters shall not reveal information about any assignment, including the fact that the service has been performed, except to their immediate supervisor. All interpreters are bound by each institution's Confidentiality Statement.

2. **Interpreters shall render the message faithfully, always conveying the content and spirit of the speaker, using language most readily understood by the person(s) whom they serve.**

Interpreters must interpret everything that is said by all people in the interpreting session.

Note: All parties involved will be informed that all discussion in the session will be interpreted.

Interpreters must not delete or add any dialogue within the interpreting session.

Interpreters must convey the message in the same way as it was intended.

Interpreters must withdraw from an interpreting session if his/her own feelings interfere with rendering the message accurately.

Note: It should be recognized that accurate interpretation may be very difficult due to cultural differences. A literal word-for-word translation may not convey the intended idea. The interpreter must identify the relevancy of the concepts under discussion, considering both cultures, and accurately reword to ensure cultural appropriateness.

3. Interpreters shall not counsel, advise, or interject personal opinions.

*Interpreters may provide information about the culture and belief system if this information will facilitate communication.

*Interpreters must utilize transparency if communication has deteriorated.

Note: Transparency will be utilized to ensure that communication can be reestablished. The interpreter will inform all parties of the dynamic that he/she is clarifying a given concept to ensure that the discussion is clearly understood by all parties.

4. Interpreters shall not accept assignments using discretion with regard to skill, setting, and the consumers involved.

Interpreters shall accept only those assignments for which they are qualified.

Interpreters may withdraw from assignments that pose personal compromising concepts (for example, disagreement in political, religious, ethical, racial concepts being delivered in the session). Interpreters shall refrain from providing services to family, friends, or close professional relationships.

Note: If the situation is an emergency, the interpreter may use his/her discretion in providing service as long as he/she has informed the consumer of the above potential conflicts.

5. Interpreters shall function in a manner appropriate to the situation by maintaining professional attitude and modest appearance in all phases of an assignment.

Interpreters shall always ensure promptness and an anticipated delay must be communicated to their customers immediately.

6. Interpreters shall develop their skill and knowledge by professional training.

I have read the above Code of Ethics for Interpreters. I understand that any action beyond the guidelines is a violation of these ethics.

Interpreter Name: _____

Date: _____

*This code of ethics is the same code of ethics used at OHSU Interpreter Services Portland, Oregon. Please sign this and keep it with your important papers. Review it from time to time.

