

The Colorado Judicial Department Code of Professional Responsibility for Court Interpreters

Canon 1: Accuracy and Completeness

Interpreters 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: Representation of Qualifications

Interpreters shall accurately and completely represent their certifications, training, and pertinent experience.

Canon 3: Impartiality and Avoidance of Conflict of Interest

Interpreters shall be impartial, unbiased and shall refrain from conduct that may give an appearance of bias. Interpreters shall disclose any real or perceived conflict of interest.

Canon 4: Professional Demeanor

Interpreters shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the dignity of the court and shall be as unobtrusive as possible.

Canon 5: Confidentiality

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

Canon 6: 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 that information is not privileged or required by law to be confidential.

Canon 7: Scope of Practice

Interpreters shall limit themselves to interpreting and translating, and shall not give legal advice, express personal opinions to individuals for whom they are 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

Interpreters shall assess at all times 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 appropriate judicial authority.

Canon 9: Duty to Report Ethical Violations

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

Canon 10: Professional Development

Interpreters shall continually improve their skills and knowledge, and advance the profession through activities such as professional training and education, and interaction with colleagues and specialists in related fields.