

Interpreting for the Community

In order to avoid potential mishaps, or miscommunication, an interpreter must adhere to a set of working principles.

The following list provides basic guidelines for interpreting:

Please remember that you should not accept any interpreting assignment if you know that you are not qualified to perform such a task.

- 🎧 Remember that you are a language bridge between two parties. Your duty is to relay messages back and forth, **not** to add your own message or opinion, no matter how strongly compelled you feel to do this.
- 🎧 Remain completely loyal to the each speaker's comments. Make sure to interpret the full *meaning* of a statement rather than simply interpreting word by word, or expression by expression.
- 🎧 Do not speak with either party without interpreting everything to the other party.
- 🎧 Always pay full attention to everything that you hear and everything that you say - this helps to eliminate interpretation errors.

Golden rule: DO NOT attempt to interpret something that you have not clearly heard. If you are unclear as to what was said, ask specific questions or ask the person to repeat him/herself.

- 🎧 Be sure to maintain the same register (formal, colloquial, slang, etc.) and speech style as the speaker.
- 🎧 Before you begin, ask if there is any technical terminology or wording of which you should be aware.
- 🎧 Make sure that you are in an area that is conducive to clear communication (no loud noises, interruptions, etc.).
- 🎧 *Everything* that is said during a session is **completely confidential**. You must neither repeat information to others (family, friends, etc.) or use information for your personal gain.