

To ensure due process of law as officers of the Court, interpreters in the District of South Dakota are bound by the following Code of Ethics:

#### CODE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Canon 1 Court interpreters act strictly in the interests of the court they service.
- Canon 2 Court interpreters reflect proper court decorum and act with dignity and respect to the officials and staff of the court.
- Canon 3 Court interpreters avoid professional or personal conduct which could discredit the court.
- Canon 4 Court interpreters, except upon court order, shall not disclose any information of a confidential nature about court cases obtained while performing interpreting duties.
- Canon 5 Court interpreters respect the restraints imposed by the need for confidentiality and secrecy as protected under applicable federal and state law. Interpreters shall disclose to the court, and to the parties in a case, any prior involvement with that case, or private involvement with the parties or others significantly involved in the case.
- Canon 6 Court interpreters undertake to inform the court of any impediment in the observance of this Code or of any effort by another to cause this Code to be violated.
- Canon 7 Court interpreters work unobtrusively with full awareness of the nature of the proceedings.
- Canon 8 Court interpreters fulfill a special duty to interpret accurately and faithfully without indicating an personal bias, avoiding even the appearance of partiality.
- Canon 9 Court interpreters maintain impartiality by avoiding undue contact with witnesses, attorneys, defendants and their families, and any contact with jurors.
- Canon 10 Court interpreters refrain from giving advice of any kind to any party or individual and from expressing personal opinion in a matter before the court.

- Canon 11 Court interpreters perform the best of their ability to assure due process for the parties, accurately state their professional qualifications and refuse any assignment for which they are not qualified or under conditions which substantially impair their effectiveness. They preserve the level of language used, and the ambiguities and nuances of the speaker, without any editing. Implicit in the knowledge of their limitations is the duty to correct any error of interpretation, and demonstrate their professionalism by requesting clarification of ambiguous statements or unfamiliar vocabulary and to analyze objectively any challenge to their performance. Interpreters have the duty to call to the attention of the court any factors or conditions which adversely affect their ability to perform adequately.
- Canon 12 Court interpreters accept no remunerations, gifts, gratuities, or valuable consideration in excess of their authorized compensation in the performance of their official interpreting duties. Additionally, they avoid conflict of interest or even the appearance thereof.
- Canon 13 Court interpreters support other interpreters by sharing knowledge and expertise with them to the extent practicable in the interest of the court, and by never taking advantage of knowledge obtained in the performance of official duties, or by their access to court records, facilities, or privileges, for their own or another's personal gain.
- Canon 14 Court interpreters willingly accept and agree to be bound by this Code and understand that appropriate sanctions may be imposed by the court for willful violations.