

INTERPRETER'S WRITTEN OATH

ON MY WORD OF HONOR, AS A COURT INTERPRETER OF THE UNITED STATES
DISTRICT COURT, DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA,

I, _____,
swear (or affirm) to be true to the Code of Ethics of my profession, and to discharge faithfully the
following solemn duties and obligations:

I will interpret accurately and faithfully to the best of my ability, I will render the true meaning of all words, phrases and statements heard and I will maintain the style, tone, language level and intent of the speaker.

I will interpret simultaneously before the bench and at counsel table and will interpret consecutively at the witness stand in a clear, firm and well modulated voice so as to be heard throughout the courtroom.

I will not interject my own words, phrase or views nor will I paraphrase the interpretation of courtroom proceedings nor the testimony of a witness.

I will be punctual to court and to all courtroom proceedings. I will not delay proceedings for lack of a timely appearance nor will I absent myself from the courtroom without being excused or proceedings adjourned.

I will familiarize myself with the specifics of any matter to which I am assigned including names, dates and charges and will discover the need, if any, of special or technical vocabulary or regional variation of a language that may be required.

I will disqualify myself if the needs of the court and/or the defendant would be better served by another interpreter.

I will maintain a neutral and impartial attitude during the course of any proceedings and will strive not to give the appearance of partiality by either facial or physical gesture. I will not initiate communication, either spoken or written, with attorneys at counsel table during courtroom proceedings nor will I give the appearance of acting as a legal assistant or co-counsel

I will not give legal advise nor will I perform functions that are properly those of an attorney. I will not allow a witness or defendant to labor under the misapprehension that I am a practicing attorney.

I will not divulge nor will I discuss the content of any attorney-client communication to which I am privy. I will not discuss the testimony of witnesses outside of court and I will avoid the appearance of improper behavior by not engaging in casual conversation with a witness, defendant or members of a jury.

I will adopt a conservative manner of dress in court and will conduct myself at all times in a manner consistent with the dignity of the court.

I will be familiar with all courtroom procedures to better serve the Court.