

Comparison of interpreting codes of ethics in Oregon and Washington

Ethical value	Code of Ethics by the NCIHC (Professional Association)	WA State Department of Health and Human Services (Washington Administrative Code 388-03-050)	Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters in the Oregon Courts (by the Office of the State Court Administrator)	Washington Code of Professional Responsibility for Judiciary Interpreters (Washington General Court Rule 11.2)
Impartiality and neutrality	The interpreter strives to maintain impartiality and refrains from counseling, advising or projecting personal biases or beliefs.	Impartiality / conflict of interest. Interpreters/translators must disclose to the department any real or perceived conflicts of interest that would affect their professional objectivity. Note: Providing interpreting or translating services to family members or friends may violate the family member or friend's right to confidentiality, constitute a conflict of interest, or violate a DSHS contract or subcontract.	Impartiality and avoidance of conflict of interest – court or proceeding interpreter: The interpreter shall be impartial and unbiased and shall refrain from conduct that may give an appearance of bias or conflict of interest. The interpreter shall disclose to the judge any real bias or interest in the parties or witnesses in a case, or any situation or relationship that may be perceived by the court, any of the parties, or any witnesses as a bias or interest in the parties or witnesses in a case.	Impartiality and Neutrality. Interpreters must faithfully render the source message without allowing their own views to interfere. They must refrain from conduct that may give an appearance of bias and must disclose any real or potential conflict of interest to all parties and the court, if applicable, as soon as they become aware of it.

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Competence		Proficiency. Interpreters/translators must meet the minimum proficiency standard set by DSHS. Self-representation. Interpreters/translators must accurately and completely represent their certifications, training, and experience.	REPRESENTATION OF QUALIFICATIONS. The interpreter shall accurately and completely represent his or her certifications, training, and pertinent experience. The court should reassess the interpreter's qualifications each time the interpreter is engaged to interpret in court for a non-English speaking party or witness	Competence. Interpreters must not knowingly accept any assignment beyond their skill level. If at any point, before or during an assignment, they have reservations about their ability to satisfy an assignment competently, they must immediately disclose this to all parties and, if applicable, to the court. In their professional capacity, interpreters must not give legal or other advice or engage in any activity that may be construed as a service other than interpreting or translating.

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Confidentiality	The interpreter treats as confidential , within the treating team, all information learned in the performance of their professional duties, while observing relevant requirements regarding disclosure.	Confidentiality. Interpreters/translators must not divulge any information publicly or privately obtained through their assignments, including, but not limited to, information gained through access to documents or other written materials.	CONFIDENTIALITY Interpreters shall understand the rules of privileged and other confidential information and shall protect the confidentiality of all privileged and other confidential information. 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,	Confidentiality. Interpreters must not divulge privileged or other confidential information obtained in their professional capacity. They must refrain from making any public statement on matters in which they serve.
Accuracy	The interpreter strives to render the message accurately, conveying the content and spirit of the original message, taking into consideration its cultural context.	Accuracy. Interpreters / translators must always express the source language message in a thorough and faithful manner. They must: (a) Omit or add nothing; (b) Give consideration to linguistic variations in both the source and target languages; and (c) Conserve the tone and spirit of the source language.	The interpreter shall render a complete and accurate interpretation or sight translation, without altering, omitting anything from, or adding anything to what is stated or written, and without explanation.	Interpreters must reproduce in the target language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message without altering it by means of addition, omission, or explanation.

<p style="text-align: center;">Professionalism</p>	<p>The interpreter strives to continually further his/her knowledge and skills. The interpreter treats all parties with respect. The interpreter must at all times act in a professional and ethical manner.</p> <p>The interpreter continuously strives to develop awareness of his/her own and other (including biomedical) cultures encountered in the performance of their professional duties.</p>	<p>Professional Development.</p> <p>Interpreters/translators are expected to continually develop their skills and knowledge through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professional interpreter/translator training; 2. Continuing education; and 3. Regular interaction with colleagues and specialists in related fields <p>Professional demeanor.</p> <p>Interpreters/translators must be punctual, prepared, and dressed in a manner appropriate, and not distracting for the situation.</p> <p>Reporting obstacles to practice.</p> <p>Interpreters/translators must assess at all times their ability to interpret/translate.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interpreters/translators must immediately notify the parties if they have any reservations about their competency and offer to withdraw without threat or retaliation; 2. Interpreters/translators must immediately withdraw from encounters they perceive as a violation of this code. 	<p>Professional Development.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Professional Demeanor</p> <p>Interpreters shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the dignity of the court and shall be as unobtrusive as possible.</p> <p>ASSESSING AND REPORTING IMPEDIMENTS TO PERFORMANCE</p> <p>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 court.</p> <p>DUTY TO REPORT ETHICAL VIOLATIONS</p> <p>Interpreters shall report to the court any actions by any persons that may impede their compliance with any law, any provision of this code, or any other official policy governing court interpreting and sight translating.</p>	<p>Interpreters should maintain and expand competence in their field through professional development. Professional development includes steady practice, professional training, ongoing education, terminology research, regular and frequent interaction with colleagues and specialists in related fields, and staying abreast of new technologies, current issues, laws, policies, rules, and regulations that affect their profession.</p>
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Honesty		Compensation. Interpreters/translators must: 1. Not accept additional money, consideration, or favors for services reimbursed by the department. The fee schedule agreed to between the contracted language services providers and the department shall be the maximum compensation accepted. 2. Not use the department's time, facilities, equipment or supplies for private gain or other advantage; and 3. Not use or attempt to use their position to secure privileges or exemptions.		Honesty and Integrity. Interpreters have an inviolable duty to provide honest services in which their behavior upholds the values outlined in this code. They must accurately represent their credentials, training, and relevant experience. Interpreters must not engage in conduct that impedes their compliance with this code or allow another to induce or encourage them to violate the law or this code.

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Advocacy	<p>When the patient's health, well-being, or dignity is at risk, the interpreter may be justified in acting as an advocate.</p> <p>Advocacy is understood as an action taken on behalf of an individual that goes beyond facilitating communication, with the intention of supporting good health outcomes.</p> <p>Advocacy must only be undertaken after careful and thoughtful analysis of the situation and if other less intrusive actions have not resolved the problem.</p>			