



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SUPERIOR COURT
Special Operations Division
Office of Court Interpreting Services

Quiz on Code of Ethics and Rules of Professional Conduct for Court Interpreters

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Please mark the correct answer with an "X".

Interpreter Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct Quiz

1. What is inappropriate attire to wear to Court?

- A suit without a tie.
- Jeans.
- A highly patterned shirt.
- All of the above.

2. When working on a lengthy motion hearing, how can you support your teammate in the interpreting assignment?

- Remain in the courtroom and listen to the testimony and arguments presented by the parties and attorneys.
- Alternate the active and passive interpreters every 30 minutes or less, depending on the intensity and complexity of the subject matter.
- If unfamiliar language or vocabulary is used during the hearing, the passive interpreter can research the vocabulary and whisper or write down the correct answer to support the active interpreter.
- All of the above.

3. What should you do in the following situation: While waiting for your assigned case to be called, the parties approach you, knowing that you are the interpreter and speak their language, and ask for your advice on how to handle their case.

- Sit down with the parties, have a conversation with them, and express to them how frustrated you feel about not being able to assist them.
- Let the parties know that you are not permitted to have any private conversations with them and politely excuse yourself.

Research the legal matters pertaining to the case and give the parties your opinion on how they should proceed.

Tell the parties what they should do next in their case.

4. When interpreting testimony, the witness is unclear, is not able to spell his name, and is hard to follow. The court interpreter working with the witness must do the following:

Make his testimony clearer and convey what the witness means to say, instead of what he is actually saying.

Embellish.

Spell his name correctly.

None of the above.

5. When interpreting at a mediation session, the interpreter and all the parties sign the Agreement to Mediate, which states that all communications shared during the mediation are confidential. How must the interpreter treat this confidentiality?

The mediation is not an in-court proceeding so the interpreter can freely share with others the information learned during the mediation session.

The interpreter must not share any of the information learned during the mediation session with anyone.

The interpreter can share the private information learned from one party at the mediation with the other party.

The interpreter can discuss with the mediator his or her opinion about the parties and the case.

6. When interpreting at a trial, the judge takes a 15-minute recess. During this time, the passive interpreter realizes that the active interpreter made a mistake during witness testimony just before the recess. What should the interpreters do?

Hope no one notices the mistake.

Discuss the mistake and reach an agreement on what the correct interpretation should be. As soon as the case is called again, the active interpreter who made the mistake should correct the record.

The passive interpreter should keep the knowledge of the mistake to himself during the recess. Once the case is called again, the passive interpreter should point out to the judge and attorneys in front of the jury that the active interpreter made a mistake and make the correction for the record.

_____ The interpreters should argue in front of the judge, attorneys, and the jury about what the correct interpretation should be.

7. After interpreting at a trial, the court interpreter is stopped in the hallway by the parties and the attorney who offer to pay the interpreter for his/her services or to buy the interpreter a coffee as an expression of gratitude for the interpretation services provided. How must the interpreter respond?

_____ The interpreter allows the attorney to buy him or her a coffee.

_____ The interpreter accepts payment from the parties for his/her services.

_____ The interpreter gets offended by the offer and abruptly leaves the parties and the attorneys to return to the Interpreter's Office.

_____ The interpreter politely declines any offer of payment of any kind from either the parties or the attorneys.

8. While interpreting at a mediation, the interpreter feels frustrated that cultural differences may be lost in translation between the mediator and the party. The interpreter is concerned that the party does not understand the questions being asked of him/her. What must the interpreter do?

_____ The interpreter must ask the mediator to rephrase his/her questions so that the party can better understand what is being said.

_____ The interpreter must explain to the mediator that the party does not understand the questions and suggest to the mediator different questions that could be used to facilitate communication with the party.

_____ When interpreting, the interpreter must change, simplify, and phrase the questions in such a way that the party can understand them.

_____ None of the above.

9. An interpreter must at all times maintain respect for the dignity of the court. How can an interpreter do this?

_____ Arrive punctually for his/her assignment. To prevent any delay of proceedings, interpreters are encouraged to arrive 15 minutes prior to when their case is scheduled to be called.

_____ Dress appropriately for a courtroom setting.

_____ Upon receipt of an assignment, the interpreter should promptly report to the assigned courtroom or event, thus avoiding delays in court proceedings.

Check-in with the Interpreter's Office without delay after completing an assignment to receive further instructions.

All of the above.

10. While interpreting complex opening arguments and testimony simultaneously, an interpreter is having difficulty hearing and keeping up with the speakers. What must the interpreter do?

Request that the judge, witnesses, and attorneys speak slower, loudly, and clearly.

Hope no one notices that he or she cannot keep up.

Omit parts of the interpretation.

Provide a summary interpretation into the target language of what is being said.

Once you have completed this quiz, please save the document and email it to interpreters@dcsc.gov.