

INTERPRETER FORM

Name: _____ Language: _____

Phone No.: _____ E-mail Address: _____

DHS Division/Branch/Section/Unit: _____

DHS Position Title: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

For DHS Staff Volunteer Interpreter:

I would like to be on the DHS list of volunteer interpreters. I will inform the DHS Personnel Office, Civil Rights Compliance Staff, if I no longer want to volunteer as an interpreter.

I do not want to be on the DHS List of Volunteer Interpreters; however I will provide interpreter services for _____.

For Family And Friends Providing Interpreter Services:

Name of person you are interpreting for: _____

Your relationship to the person you are interpreting for: _____

I state that the following are true:

I have read and understand the Interpreter Code of Ethics (on the back of this form), and agree to follow it when providing interpreter services;

I am 18 years of age or older; and,

Check as applicable:

I can communicate in English and the language listed above; _____

I can interpret to and from English and the language listed above; _____

I can translate written English to the language listed above; _____

I can translate the written language listed above to English; _____

Fluency:
Fair Good Excellent

Unless otherwise approved by DHS, I understand that my services are voluntary and I will not receive extra pay from DHS for providing interpreter services.

(Signature)

Date

Interpreter Code of Ethics

1. Accuracy

- a. Interpreters shall convey the message and tone of the speakers accurately and completely, without adding or deleting anything.
- b. Interpreters shall accurately interpret offensive language, obscenities, and sexual terminology and shall maintain composure while interpreting in emotionally charged situations.
- c. Interpreters shall seek clarification when needed.
- d. Upon recognizing that a communication may have been misunderstood, interpreters may bring the possible misunderstanding to the attention of the provider, who will decide how to resolve it. (Not to be done in legal proceedings.)

2. Confidentiality

- a. Interpreters shall keep confidential all assignment-related information and shall not divulge any information obtained through their assignments, including but not limited to information gained through access to documents or other written materials.

3. Impartiality

- a. Interpreters shall refrain from accepting an assignment when family, personal or professional relationships affect impartiality.
- b. Interpreters shall reveal any relationship with a party that might be perceived as a conflict of interest.
- c. Interpreters shall demonstrate respect toward all persons involved in the interpreting situation and shall act in a manner that is neutral, impartial, unbiased and culturally sensitive.

4. Role Boundaries

- a. Interpreters shall use first person speech to help facilitate as much direct communication as possible.
- b. Interpreters shall maintain proper role boundaries, avoiding all unnecessary contact with the parties during and outside the interpreting situation.
- c. Interpreters shall not interject personal opinions or give counsel or advice to individuals for whom they are interpreting.

5. Professionalism

- a. Interpreters shall arrive punctually at the appointed location, prepared and dressed appropriately.
- b. Interpreters hired by an agency shall not promote their own business directly with the agency's customers or accept/request gratuities or additional fees from them.
- c. Interpreters shall accurately represent their qualifications, training and experience, and shall refrain from accepting assignments for which they are not qualified.
- d. Interpreters shall participate in continuing education programs when available.
- e. Interpreters seek evaluative feedback in order to improve their performance.

*Adopted from Dr. Suzanne Zeng, Center for Interpretation and Translation Studies, University of Hawaii
Revised June 2009*