

Ethics for 2021

Ethical vs Moral vs Practical

Part 1

Rafael Carrillo

Ethical vs Moral vs Practical

According to Merriam-Webster

- Ethical

- 2: involving or expressing moral approval or disapproval/ethical judgments
- 3: conforming to accepted standards of conduct /ethical behavior

- Moral

- 1a: of or relating to principles of right and wrong in behavior: ETHICAL /moral judgments

- Practical

- 1a: of, relating to, or manifested in practice or action : not theoretical or ideal /a practical question / for all practical purposes
- 5: concerned with voluntary action and ethical decisions / practical reason

Guidance New Mexico

Ethical Standards and Responsibilities

- The interpreter shall render a complete and accurate interpretation.
- The interpreter shall remain impartial.
- The interpreter shall maintain confidentiality.
- The interpreter shall confine himself or herself to the role of interpreting.
- The interpreter shall be prepared for any type of proceeding or case.
- The interpreter shall ensure that the duties of his or her office are carried out under working conditions that are in the best interest of the court.
- The interpreter shall be familiar with and adhere to all of these ethical standards, and shall maintain high standards of personal and professional conduct to promote public confidence in the administration of justice.

Guidance Texas Code of Ethics

1. Accuracy and Completeness.
2. Representation of Qualifications.
3. Impartiality and Avoidance of Conflicts of Interest.
4. Professional Demeanor.
5. Confidentiality.
6. Scope of Practice.
7. Assessing and Reporting Impediments to Performance.
8. Duty to Report Ethical Violations.
9. Professional Development.


Guidance Federal Courts

Standards for Performance and Professional Responsibility for Contract Court Interpreters in the Federal Courts


1. Accuracy and Completeness.
2. Representation of Qualifications.
3. Impartiality, Conflicts of Interest and Remuneration and Gifts.
4. Professional Demeanor.
5. Confidentiality.
6. Restriction of Public Comment
7. Scope of Practice.
8. Assessing and Reporting Impediments to Performance.
9. Duty to Report Ethical Violations.


What's the objective?





1. You are asked by a party to interpret or translate for somebody you were initially not hired to help. You have time to do it and it's within the time period you have been hired to cover already.

- Answer 1: You do it without hesitation.
 - Answer 2: You ask for permission from the party who hired you or supervisor before doing it.
 - Answer 3: You politely decline to assist the LEP and state your reasons.
- 




2. You are interpreting consecutively and the Judge and the parties start the hearing without pausing to allow for interpretation. You look for pauses to inform the Judge that you need to interpret for the LEP without any success.

Answer 1: You get louder and try to interrupt until somebody acknowledges your existence.

Answer 2: You flat out interrupt.

Answer 3: You wait until there is a natural pause then ask if the Court or the parties will need the assistance of the interpreter.



3. You are interpreting in simultaneous mode and the Judge corrects your rendition of something the witness said. Specifically the witness uses incorrect terminology or a nonstandard or made-up word that is understood by all and doesn't affect the record.

Answer 1: You immediately inform the Judge that it was the witness who started using the word.

Answer 2: You acknowledge the Judge's correction and continue interpreting.

Answer 3: You acknowledge the correction and state that you stand by your interpretation.

4. You are interpreting for a probation officer and the mother of a child who will be interviewed later. The probation officer asks a question. The mother addresses you (interpreter) and says, I'm going tell you, but don't tell the officer, "..."

Answer 1: You explain to her that you have to interpret everything she says.

Answer 2: You tell the officer what the mother has just said before the mother has a chance to give an answer to the officer's question.

Answer 3: You interpret what the mother just said.

Answer 4: You wait for the mother to give the response to the POs question that she had asked you not to share, then interpret it to the PO.

Final thoughts

- If it sounds wrong say something.
- If it feels wrong question it.
- If it is wrong do something.
- Stay within your area of expertise.
- Don't give into pressure.
- Protect your reputation but let go of your ego.
- Relax and enjoy the ride!