

Ethics for 2021

Ethical vs Moral vs Practical

Part 2

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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 the Judge to simultaneously interpret a recorded conversation (call/body wire) in a jury trial.

Answer 1: You agree to start interpreting the audio without hesitation.

Answer 2: You ask to review the material outside the presence of the jury before interpreting it.

Answer 3: You ask to approach the bench. You then inform the Judge that you are not qualified to perform the assigned duty under the current conditions.



2. An attorney objects on the record to your rendition based on his knowledge of the LEPs language. He shares the meaning of the word he just objected to in his native country. You are 110% sure your rendition is correct.

Answer 1: You inform the Judge that you stand by your rendition.

Answer 2: You ask permission to inquire from the witness as to the meaning.

Answer 3: You just continue interpreting as if nothing happened




3. A defendant is advised of his right to remain silent at his initial or arraignment hearing. The defendant starts making incriminating statements.

Answer 1: You wait for him/her to finish and then interpret everything.

Answer 2: You interrupt the defendant and advise counsel in private of the statements.

Answer 3: You advise the judge that the defendant is making self-incriminating statements.






4. You arrive for an assignment and the name of one of the defendants in the list of cases for the day seems familiar but you really don't recognize the individual.

Answer 1: You ask the individual if he recognizes you with the purpose of identifying any possible conflict of interest.

Answer 2: You say nothing and cover the assignment.

Answer 3: You advise the judge that one of the names on the list of cases seems familiar, yet you do not recognize any of the individuals present for the hearings.



5. You are working as part of a team and your partner interprets something on the record you believe is incorrect. It is very relevant to the case.

Answer 1: You write a note to your partner immediately explaining what you think was a mistake.

Answer 2: You interrupt your partner and whisper what you think was the mistake.

Answer 3: You interrupt the proceeding and make the correction on the record.

Answer 4: You wait for a break and explain to your partner what you think was a mistake so that he/she can correct the record after the break.

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!