Code of Ethics for Interpreters

1. ACCURACY
   a. The interpreter’s main goal is to transmit the meaning of messages received, with as much accuracy as possible.
   b. The interpreter will accurately render the meaning of the messages in full, without omissions, additions, substitutions or changes.
   c. The interpreter will be faithful in meaning, including accurately interpreting terms that could potentially be perceived as vulgar, unusual, repetitive, colloquial or fowl language.
   d. The interpreter emulates the register, tone and style in which the original messages were rendered
   e. The interpreter’s role is never to correct, redirect,

2. CONFIDENCIALITY
   a. The interpreter maintains confidentiality and does not disclose information outside of involved and/or permitted by the client

3. IMPARTIALITY
   a. The interpreter informs any potential conflict of interest and withdraws from assignments if such is necessary
   b. The interpreter does not allow personal judgments or cultural values to affect his objectivity

4. ACCOUNTABILITY
   a. The interpreter will be accountable and aware of liability and risk issues. Accountable interpreters recognize their interpretation mistakes and try to rectify them as soon as they are able.
   b. Interpreters will seek clarification if they don’t understand or fully understand what was said. First they will inform the audience what they are about to do, then ask for a clarification
   c. The interpreter will never provide an inaccurate meaning nor proceed without having fully understood the source message.

5. ETHICS OF INTERACTION
   a. The interpreter tries to remain ‘invisible’, facilitating a fluid and seamless interaction between parties as much as possible
b. The interpreter tries to promote direct communication among parties

c. The interpreter’s demeanor is encouraging to facilitating parties participation and interaction

6. CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS

a. The interpreter will use people first language

b. The interpreter is sensitive to the cultures of the parties involved and tries to transmit accordingly

c. The interpreter is respectful of dialects and terminology difference depending on geographical areas with both the source and target messages

d. The interpreter informs all parties of any significant cultural misunderstanding that arises.

7. ROLE BOUNDARIES

a. Interpreters should remain faithful to the message and not behave as advocates – depending on the specific situation

b. Boundaries Exception: When the wellbeing or safety may be at risk, the interpreter may be justified in acting as an advocate depending on the circumstances.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LIMITATION

a. Interpreters should acknowledge their lack of knowledge or skill and turn down assignments they don’t possess the professional level to fulfill

b. Interpreters should acknowledge if at any particular moment they may be not performing at their best ability and transfer the assignment momentarily to their partner

9. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT