

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

ORDER

Acting in accordance with Article V, Sections 1 and 5 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, and the inherent power of this Court, and considering the need to adopt a Code of Professional Responsibility for Language Interpreters, it is hereby ordered, adjudged and decreed that:

Section 1. Part G, Section 14 of the General Administrative Rules for all Louisiana Courts be and is hereby enacted, to read as follows:

Part G. General Administrative Rules for all Louisiana Courts

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Section 14. Code of Professional Responsibility for Language Interpreters.

Canon 1: Accuracy and Completeness

Interpreters shall render a complete and accurate interpretation, translation, or sight translation, without altering, omitting, or adding anything to what is stated or written, and without explanation.

Canon 2: Representation of Qualifications

Interpreters shall accurately and completely represent their certifications, training, and pertinent experience.

Canon 3: Impartiality and Avoidance of Conflict of Interest

Interpreters shall be impartial and unbiased and shall refrain from conduct that may give an appearance of bias or impropriety. Interpreters shall disclose to the presiding judge any real, perceived or potential conflict of interest.

Canon 4: Professional Demeanor

Interpreters shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the dignity of the court and shall be as unobtrusive as possible.

Canon 5: Confidentiality

Interpreters shall protect the confidentiality of all privileged and other confidential information.

Canon 6: Restriction on Public Comment

Interpreters shall not publicly discuss, report, or offer an opinion concerning a matter in which they are or have been engaged, even when that information is not privileged or required by law to be confidential, except upon court approval.

Canon 7: Scope of Practice

Interpreters shall limit themselves to interpreting or translating and shall not give legal advice, express personal opinions to the court, counsel, or individuals for whom they are interpreting, or engage in any other activities which may be construed to constitute a service other than interpreting or translating while serving as an interpreter.

Canon 8: Assessing and Reporting Impediments to Performance

Interpreters shall assess at all times their ability to deliver their services. When interpreters have any reservation about their ability to satisfy an assignment competently, they shall immediately convey that reservation to the presiding judge.

Canon 9: Duty to Report Ethical Violations

Interpreters shall report to the presiding or administrative judge any effort to influence or impede the performance of their duty or their compliance with any legal requirement, provision of this code, or other official policy governing court interpreting and legal translating.

Canon 10: Professional Development

Interpreters shall continually improve their skills and knowledge and advance the profession through activities such as professional training and education, and interaction with colleagues and specialists in related fields.

Section 2. This Code shall be applicable to all persons, agencies and organizations who deliver or provide interpreting services to the judiciary.

This rule shall become effective on September 1, 2012, and shall remain in full force and effect thereafter, until amended or changed through future Orders of this Court.

Given under our hands and seal this ____ day of July, 2012, New Orleans,
Louisiana.

FOR THE COURT:

Catherine D. Kimball, Chief Justice