



District 518 strives to provide high quality service to all students and families. On-call Interpreters contribute to the school district's ability to provide educational access for all families with students enrolled in the school district. On-call Interpreters for District 518 are expected to act with integrity and adhere to the ethics of interpreting described in this document.

Ethics and Standards for Interpreters

1. **Confidentiality:** Interpreters treat all information learned during their interpreting as confidential. Confidentiality includes all written and verbal communication with all parties involved. Confidentiality continues beyond the length of the contract for service or employment.
2. **Accuracy:** Interpreters communicate the content of the message into the target language. Interpreters incorporate the spirit and cultural context of the message, so that information is communicated as accurately and effectively as possible. Accuracy and completeness are valuable components of a quality interpretation.
3. **Impartiality:** Interpreters remain unbiased while providing interpretation in a professional setting. Interpreters will refrain from sharing any personal values, beliefs, judgments, or opinions that could lead to biased treatment or impact the quality or accuracy of the interpretation. Interpreters should identify any potential or actual conflicts of interest to the person who has engaged their interpreting service prior to the start of the interpretation.
4. **Respect:** Interpreters demonstrate respect to all parties involved in the encounter. Interpreters strive to support mutually respectful relationships between all parties in the interaction. Interpreter maintain the professional boundaries and refrain from personal involvement.
5. **Professionalism:** Interpreters conduct themselves in a professional manner that demonstrates integrity and adherence to the ethical principles of the interpreting profession. Professional interpreters continually pursue increased knowledge and skills.
6. **Cultural Responsiveness:** Interpreters understand how cultural similarities and differences impact the encounter. Interpreters are capable of identifying cultural issues that may be relevant to the encounter and may elect to provide culturally clarifying information. When sharing this type of information, Interpreters should indicate to all parties that they are moving to a "culturally clarifying role".
7. **Advocacy:** Interpreters may only decide to act as an advocate when the well-being of the student is at risk. Advocacy must only take place after careful consideration of the situation and after other less intrusive actions have not resolved the situation.

This document was developed with input from ISD 518 Translators and information on ethics for interpreters from www.chiaonline.org and www.ncihc.org.

ISD 518 encourages all of its interpreters to pursue formal interpreter training, the 40-hour community interpreter training is recommended.