

ASLI Code of Ethics

ASLI expects all of its members to work to these codes and behave in a manner appropriate to the interpreting situation for the benefit to all involved.

The Code of Ethics: The interpreter shall –

- do no harm;
- be honest;
- keep her/his word;
- act justly and fairly;
- respect the personal choices another person makes;
- strive to do good.

In the event of a conflict between principles, priority should be given to ‘do no harm’.

ASLI Code of Professional Practice

The Code of Professional Practice further elaborates and offers suggestions for how the Ethical Principles should be followed.

Fundamental Principles

- Interpreters respect confidentiality.
 - Interpreters possess the professional skills and knowledge required for the specific interpreting situation.
 - Interpreters behave appropriately and do not bring the profession into disrepute.
 - Interpreters demonstrate respect for the rights of Deaf and hearing consumers of their services.
 - Interpreters demonstrate respect for colleagues, trainees, and students of the profession.
 - Interpreters maintain ethical business practices.
 - Interpreters are committed to training and professional development.
 - Interpreters do not discriminate against parties, either directly or indirectly, on any grounds.
- **Acceptance of Work**
 - Interpreters should aim to undertake interpreting assignments for which they have the appropriate competence, and experience.
 - Interpreters should not accept an assignment where their impartiality could be questioned. Interpreters should disclose any information which may make them unsuitable for an assignment.
 - Interpreters may refuse any assignment without giving a reason.
 - If an interpreter is unable to undertake an assignment they will inform the person who booked them as soon as possible and find a replacement where they can.

- **Standards of Work**
 - Interpreters should endeavour to interpret as accurately as possible; they should not add nor take anything away from the intended meaning and should keep to the spirit of what is said or signed.
 - Interpreters should strive to ensure that complete and effective communication takes place.
 - If there are communication problems during an assignment, interpreters should look to solve these using their professional skills.

- **Confidentiality**
 - Interpreters are expected to keep confidential any information pertaining to, or arising from an interpreting or interpreting related assignment. The only exceptions to this requirement are listed in **b** and **c** (below).
 - The interpreter may pass on information pertaining to or arising from an interpreted assignment if failure to do so could result in prosecution or if required to do so by law.
 - Interpreters may pass on information pertaining to or arising from an interpreted assignment to protect the welfare of an individual or the wider community.
 - Information given and interpreted in public is not confidential.

- **Impartiality**
 - Interpreters should be impartial when interpreting.
 - Interpreters should not benefit unfairly from any information learned while they are working.
 - Conflicts of interest should be declared as soon as possible, if these have not been disclosed when accepting an assignment.

