



## **Registro de Intérpretes para Sordos de Puerto Rico, Inc.**

### **RISPRI Code of Ethics: Guidelines for Professional Conduct**

This Code of Ethics applies to all interpreters and interpreting students in Puerto Rico and applies to all interpreted situations that are performed either face-to-face or remotely, paid or pro bono. This Code of Ethics does not represent local and/or federal laws, it is a guide to professional conduct in the profession of sign language interpreting in Puerto Rico. Federal, state or other laws may supersede this Code of Ethics. When there is a conflict between this Code of Ethics and local or federal laws, interpreters will obey the rule of law. The decisions interpreters make and the consequences of their actions should be observed and considered based on these guidelines. The purpose of this Code Ethics is to reinforce the concept that interpreters will do no harm.

#### **Core Values:**

#### **I. Trust and Confidentiality**

#### **II. Professional Integrity**

#### **III. Professional Practice**

#### **I. Trust and Confidentiality**

1. Interpreters acknowledge and respect that they are in a position of power, privilege, and trust.
2. Interpreters maintain confidentiality of all personal information regarding consumers obtained during any type of service. This includes the manner in which data, records, invoices, and calendars are stored and accessed.
3. Interpreters only share relevant consumer-related information with colleagues on a need-to-know basis to ensure continuity of quality service.
4. Interpreters refrain from using social networks for the dissemination of information related to provision of services.
5. Interpreters inform consumers when local or federal laws require disclosure of confidential information.

#### **II. Professional Integrity**

1. Interpreters refrain from offering advice or personal opinions to consumers beyond the scope of the interpreting process.
2. Interpreters avoid performing dual or conflicting roles and will refrain from performing functions and or services outside of their designated role. This includes serving as an assistant or representative for any consumer.
3. Interpreters only accept assignments for which they possess the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities. Conversely, interpreters refrain from accepting assignments for which they are not qualified.
4. Interpreters do not discriminate on the basis of sex, gender, identity, race, color, age, belief, sexual orientation, religion, political ideology, origin, nationality, social class, linguistic preference, or for any other reason.
5. Interpreters render the message faithfully; correcting any errors discreetly and expeditiously.
6. Interpreters use language that best suits the consumer's preferences and needs.

7. Interpreters assess and respect cultural and linguistic differences of consumers. When working outside of their usual community of practice, interpreters ensure they possess the necessary cultural and linguistic competencies.
8. Interpreters advocate the use of and request support from Deaf interpreters, colleagues, or other language facilitators when needed to fully convey the message or cultural content.
9. Interpreters respect all parties involved. This includes all consumers, colleagues, and interpreting students.
10. Interpreters facilitate communication access and equality, and support the full interaction and independence of consumers; ensuring that all participants maintain the right of informed choice.
11. Interpreters do not use their position to purposely alter the natural course of events of any interpreted interaction.
12. Interpreters do not use their position for personal glory or gain.
13. Interpreters do not use information learned during assignments for personal, monetary, or professional gain.
14. Interpreters judiciously provide information or referrals regarding available interpreting or community resources as long as it does not infringe upon consumer's rights.
15. Interpreters maintain and improve their knowledge and skills through continuing education.

### **III. Professional Practice**

1. Interpreters obtain and maintain professional memberships.
2. Interpreters accurately represent qualifications, such as certification, educational background, professional membership, and experience, and provide documentation upon request.
3. Interpreters conduct and present themselves in a professional and unobtrusive manner consistent with assignments and workplace codes of conduct.
4. Interpreters prepare for assignments.
5. Interpreters assess consumer's needs and interpreting logistics before, during, and after the assignment and negotiate to make adjustments as needed.
6. Interpreters understand and respect the difference between social and professional interactions with consumers and maintain boundaries to avoid actual or perceived conflicts of interest.
7. Interpreters disclose to all parties involved any actual or perceived conflicts of interest.
8. Interpreters charge fair and reasonable rates for interpreting services; establishing rates based on the type of service requested, location, skills, expertise, qualifications, years of experience, and education level.
9. Interpreters arrive in advance of assignment start time and will inform appropriate parties in a timely manner when delayed or unable to fulfill assignments.
10. Interpreters honor professional commitments and terminate assignments only when fair and justifiable grounds exist.
11. Interpreters reserve the option to decline or discontinue assignments if working conditions are not safe, healthy, or conducive to interpreting.
12. Interpreters advocate for conditions that are conducive to effective communication, inform the parties involved if such conditions do not exist, and seek appropriate remedies.
13. Interpreters maintain and improve their knowledge and understanding of professional standards and best practices related to the provision of interpretation services and keep abreast of laws, policies, rules, and regulations that affect the profession.

This code of ethics was developed by the Ethics Committee (a subcommittee of the Certification Committee) of the Registro de Intérpretes para Sordos de Puerto Rico in cooperation and collaboration with members of the Puerto Rican Deaf community. Ethics Committee members: Ricardo I. Ortiz, Angelique García Solá, Lucas Soto, and Gordon Vernon.