



**Rules of
Department of Economic
Development**

**Division 232—Missouri State Committee of Interpreters
Chapter 3—Ethical Rules of Conduct**

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**Title 4—DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
**Division 232—Missouri State Committee
of Interpreters**

Chapter 3—Ethical Rules of Conduct

4 CSR 232-3.010 General Principles

PURPOSE: This rule provides the ethical principles governing the practice of interpreting.

(1) The Ethical Rules of Conduct for Interpreters (hereinafter ethical rules) shall apply to a licensed interpreter, temporary licensed interpreter, applicant for licensure and applicant for temporary licensure (hereinafter referred to as interpreter or interpreters). A violation of these ethical rules constitutes unprofessional conduct and is sufficient reason for disciplinary action.

(2) An interpreter must maintain a current certification with the Missouri Commission for the Deaf as defined by section 209.285(3), RSMo.

(3) An interpreter shall not interpret in a setting beyond his or her certification level, as provided for in 5 CSR 100-200.170.

(4) For the purpose of these rules, a consumer shall be defined as any person, persons, or entity receiving interpreting services.

(5) An interpreter shall not accept or continue an assignment if the interpreter does not possess the ability, education, training, experience, and qualifications as defined in section 209.285(3), RSMo.

(6) An interpreter shall convey the content and affect of the source message transmitted, in a culturally and linguistically accurate manner, using the language or communication system most readily understood by the consumer.

(A) For the purpose of these rules, message shall mean the auditory or visual information that is to be interpreted into another language or communication system.

(7) An interpreter shall not extend or lengthen an assignment for the sole purpose of financial gain.

(8) An interpreter shall not misrepresent her/his licensure, ability, education, training, educational credentials, or certification as defined in section 209.285(3), RSMo.

(9) The interpreter shall not interject personal opinion during an assignment or on matters pertaining to the assignment.

(10) The interpreter shall safeguard any information obtained relating to an assignment. If an interpreting assignment is an event open to the public, the interpreter may disclose information regarding the location of the assignment and general nature of the event.

(11) When an assignment is not an event open to the public, an interpreter shall not disclose information relating to the assignment to include location, nature of the assignment, or individuals present during the assignment without the written consent of the consumer.

(A) For the purpose of this rule, an interpreter may disclose the general location of an assignment for the purpose of contacting the interpreter, in the event of an emergency. However, the interpreter shall remain responsible for any unauthorized disclosure of information relating to an interpreting assignment.

(B) An interpreter may reveal such information as reasonably necessary to establish a claim or defense in a legal proceeding.

(12) The interpreter shall not accept or continue an assignment when the objectivity or competency of the interpreter is or can reasonably be expected to be impaired because of an emotional, mental, psychological, or substance abuse disorder.

(13) The interpreter shall not accept or continue an assignment if the interpreter's inability to remain neutral affects the interpretation.

(14) The interpreter shall not accept or continue an interpreting assignment when the objectivity or competency of the interpreter is impaired because of the interpreter's familial, sexual, and/or emotional relationship with the consumer or consumer's family.

(15) If the interpreter discovers a need to withdraw from an assignment, the interpreter shall advise the consumer.

(16) An interpreter shall not delegate an assignment to a person who is not qualified or does not possess the appropriate certification, as defined in section 209.285(3), RSMo, for the service to be provided.

(17) An interpreter shall not engage in an exploitive relationship with a consumer. For the purposes of these ethical rules of conduct, an exploitive relationship is any relationship

between the interpreter and consumer that may take advantage of, or cause harm to, the consumer.

(18) An interpreter shall maintain an appearance that does not interfere with the message as defined in 4 CSR 232-3.010(6)(A).

(19) Within the limits of the law, and after receiving written consumer consent, an interpreter must respond in writing, within thirty (30) days from the date of a written request or inquiry from the committee, mailed to the interpreter's address currently registered with the committee.

(20) An interpreter shall not practice interpreting as defined in section 209.285(3), RSMo upon the lapse, expiration, suspension, or revocation of a certification.

*AUTHORITY: sections 209.328.1, RSMo 2000 and 209.334, RSMo Supp. 2003. * Original rule filed Feb. 18, 1999, effective July 30, 1999. Amended: Filed Dec. 1, 2000, effective May 30, 2001. Amended: Filed Nov. 6, 2002, effective May 30, 2003. Amended: Filed Sept. 8, 2003, effective March 30, 2004.*

**Original authority: 209.328, RSMo 1994, 209.334, RSMo 1994, amended 2002.*

4 CSR 232-3.020 Consumer Welfare

PURPOSE: This rule provides the ethical principles governing the practice of interpreting and the consumer.

(1) Before beginning an interpreting assignment, an interpreter shall provide to the consumer and purchaser of the interpreter's services the following elements of informed consent:

(A) License and level of certification;
(B) Relationship to the consumer;
(C) If videotaping is utilized, how the tapes will be used; and

(D) If the interpreter is serving as a mentor for another interpreter, how confidentiality is maintained relating to the assignment.

(2) Upon request from a consumer, the interpreter shall provide the following:

(A) Services the interpreter will provide;
(B) Financial arrangements; and
(C) Limits to confidentiality regarding an individual, couple, family, or group.

(3) When interpreting multiple assignments for the same consumer(s) or platform interpreting, an interpreter shall not be required to



provide the information outlined in 4 CSR 232-3.020(1) before beginning the assignment.

(4) Within the limits of the law, an interpreter shall report to the committee all knowledge pertaining to known or suspected violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of interpreting as defined in section 209.285.1(20), RSMo, and any other applicable laws or rules.

AUTHORITY: section 209.328.2(1) and (3), RSMo 1994. Original rule filed Feb. 18, 1999, effective July 30, 1999.*

**Original authority: 209.328, RSMo 1994.*