

3rd DRAFT: Ethics and Professional Interpreter's Code (EPiC)

1. COLLABORATION

2. CONDUCT

3. COMPETENCE

4. COMMITMENT

5. CONFIDENTIALITY

CONDUCT

Deaf & Hearing Interpreters shall demonstrate at all times appropriate and fair conduct.

Conduct is exemplified by the following attributes of attitude, appearance, approach, and actions.

ATTITUDE

Deaf & Hearing Interpreters shall always maintain professional respect toward all participants and involved individuals, and to fellow interpreters and the interpreting profession.

Ex. 1: Maintain respectful behaviour towards the users (Deaf/Non-Deaf) and colleagues at all times.

Ex. 2: Accept feedback and criticism in a dignified manner.

APPEARANCE

Deaf & Hearing Interpreters shall show cultural sensitivity while choosing neutral professional attire that befits each interpreting situation, while respecting region specific settings.

Ex. 1: Avoid distracting accessories.

Ex. 2: Choose professional clothing that are appropriate to the situation.

Ex. 3: Seek approval from the users regarding preferences whenever possible.

Ex. 4: Avoid clothes with patterns or colours that don't provide sufficient contrast between attire and skin.

Ex. 5: Wearing specific attire for religious reasons is not an ethical violation but may be a reason to decline specific jobs, and may be a valid reason for Deaf persons to request a different interpreter.

Ex. 6: Be prepared with a change of attire for unexpected situations.

APPROACH

Deaf & Hearing Interpreters shall demonstrate professional etiquette and respectful approach towards all stakeholders, with deference to the Indian Deaf community regarding Deaf Culture & Indian Sign Language.

- Ex. 1: Adjust the style of communication by asking the Deaf user(s) & Non Deaf users for their preferences.
- Ex. 2: Refer any Non-signing user that talks directly to the interpreter during an assignment to the Deaf user, and defer to the Deaf user in explaining the interpreter's role to the Non-signing user.
- Ex. 3: Focus on interpreting only and shall not take on other roles during any interpreting situation.
- Ex. 4: Interpret without interfering and/or engaging in one-sided communications with either party.
- Ex. 5: Manage interpreting assignments with respect to length of time, to prevent exhaustion and deterioration of appropriate language facilitation, with advance preparation to include any interpreting team.
- Ex. 6: Interpret any phone calls through hands-free options such as using the "speaker" mode of the phone or headsets.
- Ex. 7: Position self during every interpreting assignment so that both hands are always free and facial expressions & non-manual markers are always visible to the Deaf person/s.

ACTIONS

Deaf & Hearing Interpreters shall at all times engage only in non-biased and non-judgemental actions.

- Ex. 1: Avoid engaging in, owning, or driving the conversation.
- Ex. 2: Avoid 'gatekeeping' one's interpretation including withholding, filtering, distortion or manipulation of the message between the Deaf & Non Deaf users.
- Ex. 3: Prevent personal issues, background, and boundaries from influencing ones' interpreting duties at all time during interpreting assignments.
- Ex. 4: Continue interpreting during all assignments, regardless of whether Deaf users are present or observing the interpreter or not, except with permission of all users.
- Ex. 5: Focus at all times on interpreting for each party ensuring full understanding between the Deaf & Non Deaf users.
- Ex. 6: Refrain from personally engaging with the participants other than the users, which includes no selfies, contact information or business card sharing without permission of the users.
- Ex. 7: Ensure that all parties are aware to only focus on the Deaf user/s during any video being recorded except in legal/emergency circumstances where video recordings may be required.
- Ex. 8: Inform the users about relevant information overheard or during informal conversation.
- Ex. 9: Accept, own, and correct any mistakes made during interpreting assignments.

Ex. 10: Uphold the principle of “Do No Harm” which also means “No Audism”, including but not limited to the following actions:

- No exclusive contracting to the detriment of the Deaf community.
- No engaging in any adverse actions against the Deaf community.
- Always sign when in the presence of Deaf people.
- Fully convey all information in sign even when a Non-Deaf user requests the interpreter to not share information with the Deaf user.

Ex.11: Follow all provisions of the EPiC at all times during interpreting assignments regardless of whether Deaf persons are present or not. For example, the interpreter cannot have personal conversations with other participants when there is no Deaf person in the room.