

### 3<sup>rd</sup> DRAFT: Ethics and Professional Interpreter's Code (EPiC)

#### 1. COLLABORATION

2. CONDUCT
3. COMPETENCE
4. COMMITMENT
5. CONFIDENTIALITY

#### **COLLABORATION**

*Deaf & Hearing Interpreters shall maintain an attitude of mutual collaboration with Deaf community and possess innate desire of learning about language (sign and/or spoken) and the associated culture through familiarity and bonding.*

Collaboration is promoted by respecting the best-practice models for culture, autonomy, and ally-ship.

#### **CULTURE**

*Deaf & Hearing Interpreters shall acknowledge, respect and believe in the innate value system of all cultures and languages in India.*

- Ex. 1: Incorporate the values and cultural norms of the Indian Deaf community.
- Ex. 2: Respect the religious, gender, ethnic and other cultures of the Deaf & Non Deaf users.  
For example, the interpreter should not bring anything to an interpreting job that may offend any of the parties, such as bringing meat to a vegetarian setting.
- Ex. 3: Possess sensitivity towards socio-cultural differences.
- Ex. 4: Always be aware of the dynamics of the minority Indian Deaf Community existing within the majority Non-Deaf, non-signing, multi-cultural and multi-religious Indian society.

## **AUTONOMY**

*Deaf & Hearing Interpreters* should be aware of and mitigate the power and privilege of the dominant Hearing culture to ensure communication equality between Deaf and Non-Deaf users.

- Ex. 1: Develop and maintain an open and trustworthy relationship with Deaf and non-Deaf Users without supporting one party over the other.
- Ex. 2: Identify and inform power imbalances that affects one's interpreting duties to the both Deaf and Non-Deaf users.
- Ex. 3: Involve both the Deaf and Non-Deaf users in discussions regarding ethical decisions to adjust the interpreting process to ensure communication equality between both parties during all interpreting assignments.
- Ex. 4: Handle communication imbalances with tact and politeness.

## **ALLY-SHIP**

*Deaf & Hearing Interpreters* shall in good faith develop & maintain life-long ally-ship and trust-building with the Deaf community.

- Ex. 1: Give importance to working with the Deaf community in continually developing the interpreting profession through support, training, sharing and learning together.
- Ex. 2: Ensure at all times that representatives of the Deaf community have leadership on all matters related to Interpreting and the Deaf community.
- Ex. 3: Foster transparent collaboration between all Deaf organizations & Interpreting organizations.
- Ex. 4: Commit with passion to learning ISL and connecting with the Indian Deaf community on an ongoing basis.
- Ex. 5: Avoid taking jobs teaching Indian Sign Language.
- Ex. 6: Avoid taking additional responsibilities that includes teaching or training Deaf students.
- Ex. 7: Interpreters may work in another role in an employment situation as long as the interpreter does not take on a higher position than the Deaf employee/s.
- Ex. 8: Refrain from competing with Deaf people for available jobs.
- Ex. 9: Engage in efforts (without violating any EPiC provision) to encourage employment opportunities for Deaf people, especially those involving teaching Indian Sign Language or teaching Deaf students.