

Arkansas Code of Ethics for Bilingual Interpreters in Education

1. **Confidentiality.** Interpreters must not divulge any information publicly or privately obtained through their assignments, including, but not limited to, information gained through verbal interactions, access to documents or other written materials.
2. **Qualifications.** Interpreters must accurately and completely represent their credentials, training, and experience. Interpreters have the right and responsibly to decline or withdraw from an assignment if they are unable to perform the required service in a competent and ethical manner.
3. **Accuracy.** Interpreters must always express the source language message in a thorough manner. They must:
 - a) Omit or add nothing;
 - b) Give consideration to linguistic/cultural variations in both the source and target languages; and
 - c) Conserve the tone and intent of the source language.
4. **Impartiality/Conflict of interest.** Interpreters must disclose any real or perceived conflicts of interest that would affect their professional objectivity. Providing interpreting services to family members or friends may violate the family member or friend's right to confidentiality, constitute a conflict of interest, or violate a contract or agreement. If circumstances require the service to continue under these conditions, a permission/waiver form should be obtained before services are rendered.
5. **Cultural awareness:** Interpreters must be respectful of cultural norms and experiences of all parties.
6. **Nondiscrimination.** Interpreters:
 - a) Must always be impartial and unbiased;
 - b) Shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or socio-economic status.
7. **Professional Boundaries.** Interpreters must maintain the boundaries of the role, refraining from other types of involvement.
8. **Professionalism.** Interpreters must be punctual, prepared, and dressed appropriately and professionally for the setting.
9. **Compensation.** Fees and services should be agreed upon between the employer and interpreter prior to rendering services. No additional money, gifts, or incentives should be obtained from any other parties at the time of services. The interpreter should not use the employer's time, facilities, equipment or supplies for private gain or to obtain other privileges.
10. **Professional development.** Interpreters are expected to continually develop their skills and knowledge through continuing education in interpreting and related fields.

Resources:

- *Washington State Code of Ethics*
- *SESO, Inc. Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Interpreters in the Educational Setting*
- *National Council on Interpreting in Health Care Code of Ethics.*