

APPENDIX J
CANONS OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
FOR COURT INTERPRETERS

**UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM'S
CANONS OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
FOR COURT INTERPRETER**

As officers of the court, interpreters are obligated to observe high standards of professional conduct to effectively perform their duties and to ensure public confidence in the administration of justice. The New York State Unified Court System has approved **“Canons of Professional Responsibility for Court Interpreters.”** These Canons set forth principles of professional conduct for all court interpreters. To perform their duties, interpreters are obligated to meet these professional guidelines.

- Canon 1 Court interpreters are obligated to interpret accurately and objectively without indicating any personal bias or beliefs, avoiding even the appearance of partiality.
- Canon 2 Court interpreters shall maintain impartiality by avoiding undue contact with witnesses, attorneys, defendants and their families, and any contact with jurors. This should not limit, however, those appropriate contacts necessary to prepare adequately for their assignments.
- Canon 3 Court interpreters shall reflect proper court decorum and treat with dignity and respect all court officials and personnel and all parties before the court.
- Canon 4 Court interpreters shall avoid professional or personal conduct that could discredit the court.
- Canon 5 Court interpreters shall not disclose, except upon court order, any information of a confidential nature about court proceedings and cases, obtained while performing interpreting duties.
- Canon 6 Court interpreters shall not engage in, nor have any interest, direct or indirect, in any activity, business or transaction, nor incur any obligation, that is in conflict, or that creates an appearance of conflict, with the proper discharge of their interpreting duties or that affects their independence of judgment in the discharge of those duties.
- Canon 7 Court interpreters shall disclose to the court and to the parties in a case any prior involvement with that case or private involvement with the parties or others significantly involved in the case.

- Canon 8 Court interpreters shall work unobtrusively with full awareness of the nature of the proceedings.
- Canon 9 Court interpreters shall refrain from giving advice of any kind to any party or individual and from expressing personal opinions in a matter before the court.
- Canon 10 Court interpreters must accurately state their professional qualifications and shall refuse any assignment for which they are not qualified or under conditions that substantially impair their effectiveness.
- Canon 11 Court interpreters shall not accept remuneration, gifts, gratuities or valuable consideration in excess of their authorized compensation in the performance of their official interpreting duties.
- Canon 12 Court interpreters shall not take advantage of knowledge obtained in the performance of official duties, or by their access to court records, facilities, or privileges, for their own or another's personal gain.
- Canon 13 Court interpreters are obligated to inform the court of any impediment in the observance of these Canons or of any effort by another to cause these Canons to be violated.