

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

**FILED**

ORDER

**MAR 30 2016**

**RULES RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS**

**DOUGLAS T. SHIMA  
CLERK OF APPELLATE COURTS**

The following Rule 1703 relating to the ethics code for court interpreters is hereby adopted, effective July 1, 2016.

RULE 1703

KANSAS CODE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR COURT INTERPRETERS

(a) Applicability.

An interpreter, other than a sign language interpreter, who provides an interpretation or translation service in a district court must comply with the Kansas code of professional responsibility for court interpreters.

(b) Kansas Code of Professional Responsibility for Court Interpreters.

The Kansas Code of professional responsibility for court interpreters is as follows:

Kansas Code of Professional Responsibility for Court Interpreters

CANON 1: ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS

An interpreter must render a complete and accurate interpretation or sight translation by reproducing in the target language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message without altering, omitting, or adding anything to what is stated or written, and without explanation.

CANON 2: REPRESENTATION OF QUALIFICATIONS

An interpreter must accurately and completely represent the interpreter's certifications, training, and pertinent experience.

CANON 3: IMPARTIALITY AND AVOIDANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

An interpreter must be impartial and unbiased and must refrain from conduct that may give an appearance of bias. An interpreter must disclose any real or perceived conflict of interest.

#### **CANON 4: CONFIDENTIALITY**

An interpreter must protect the confidentiality of privileged and confidential information.

#### **CANON 5: SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

While serving as an interpreter, an interpreter must not give legal advice or express a personal opinion to the individual receiving the interpretation service or engage in any other activity that appears to constitute a service other than interpretation or sight translation.

#### **CANON 6: RESTRICTION OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

An interpreter must not publicly discuss, report, or offer an opinion concerning a court matter in which the interpreter has been engaged, even when that information is not privileged or required by law to be confidential.

#### **CANON 7: ASSESSING AND REPORTING IMPEDIMENTS TO PERFORMANCE**

An interpreter must constantly assess the interpreter's professional ability. If an interpreter has any reservation about the interpreter's ability to competently satisfy an assignment, the interpreter must immediately notify the court.

#### **CANON 8: PROFESSIONAL DEMEANOR**

An interpreter's conduct must be professional, respectful, and as unobtrusive as possible.

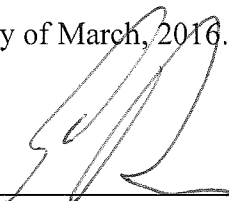
#### **CANON 9: DUTY TO REPORT ETHICAL VIOLATIONS**

An interpreter must report to the proper judicial authority any effort to impede the interpreter's compliance with any law, provision of this code, or other official policy governing court interpreting.

#### **CANON 10: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

An interpreter must continually improve the interpreter's skills and knowledge. An interpreter must advance the profession through activities such as professional training and education and interaction with colleagues and specialists in related fields.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT THIS 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016.

  
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Lawton R. Nuss  
Chief Justice

FOR LRN