

## Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Essential for Court Interpretation: American Sign Language (ASL)

The following knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) essential for court interpretation are applicable to ASL interpreters. KSAs apply to all ASL interpreters, except where specifically noted to apply solely to Deaf or hearing interpreters.

ASL-English interpreters (ASL interpreters) can hear and interpret from spoken or written Deaf interpreters may be needed, the ASL-Deaf interpreters may be needed, the ASL-Deaf interpreters may be needed.

### Section 1: Linguistic skills :

- 1A Native-like proficiency, in all working languages.
- 1B Ability to accommodate the linguistic and communication needs of a variety of Deaf individuals.
- 1C Knowledge and use of a broad range of vocabulary, including legal terminology, subject-specific terminology, and slang.
- 1D Knowledge and use of cultural nuances, regional variations, idiomatic expressions, and colloquialisms in all working languages.

### Section 2: Interactive skills :

- 2A Ability to use the proper pronunciation, diction, and intonation in all working languages, signed and spoken.
- 2B Ability to communicate with a neutralized accent in all working languages.
- 2C Ability to project and/or speak/sign softly.
- 2D Ability to ignore auditory and visual distractions and focus on the message.

### Section 3: Listening comprehension skills for hearing ASL-English interpreters :

- 3A Ability to listen to and comprehend different rates of speech in English.
- 3B Ability to listen to and comprehend various regional accents and/or language varieties in English.

Section 4: Reading comprehension skills :

4A Ability to read English and comprehend A Ability to read read :

Section 6: Behavioral skills :

- 6A Ability to practice and follow professional judicial ethical standards.
- 6B Ability to conduct business in a professional manner.
- 6C Knowledge and awareness of cultural aspects and bias that affect the interpretation.
- 6D Ability to work in various settings, situations, or conditions.
- 6E Ability to project self-confidence and self-awareness when interpreting.
- 6F Knowledge and continued learning of social, technological, and legal changes that affect interpretation and best practices.
- 6G Knowledge of how and when to petition judicial officers and court staff when requesting adjustments to standard operating procedures in order to establish effective communication.

Section 7: Skills Specifically relating to Deaf ASL Interpreters including comprehension skills:

- 7A Ability to facilitate effective communication with a variety of individuals who use atypical signed communication by employing gestures, signs and other communication approaches or tools, which may not be part of standard ASL.
- 7B Ability to see and comprehend different rates of signing in ASL and gestural communication.
- 7C Ability to see and comprehend various regional accents and/or language varieties

*Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Essential for Court Interpretation: American Sign Language (ASL)* were adopted on January 4, 2018 by the following ad hoc national advisory which included Deaf community representatives, educators, academics, certified Deaf interpreters, certified court interpreters, people from diverse backgrounds (including people of color and Children of Deaf Adults (CODA)), court administrators, and test development managers.

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