



Updating the CPC for Today's Sign Language Interpreter

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Existing CPC

Seven Tenets:

- 1) Confidentiality
- 2) Professional Skills and Knowledge
- 3) Appropriate Conduct
- 4) Respect for Consumers
- 5) Respect for Colleagues, Interns and Students
- 6) Ethical Business Practices
- 7) Professional Development



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Gaps in Existing CPC

- 1) Public Advocacy (Major Media/Social Media)**
- 2) Publicity/Self-Promotion**
- 3) Employment Competition with Deaf Individuals**
- 4) Adverse Expert Witness Testimony**
- 5) Adverse Consultations**
- 6) Working for Agencies & VRI that Ignore Consumer Needs**



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Public Advocacy

- **Allyship is great**
- **Difference between allyship & preemption**
- **Frontline advocacy belongs to deaf community**
- **Includes:**
 - **Interviews with major media outlets**
 - **Authoring articles in major media outlets**
 - **Vlogs and Blogs**



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Publicity/Self-Promotion

- **Self-promotion has created distrust between interpreters/agencies and deaf community**
- **CPC should include a tenet on ethical self-promotion**
- **Mirror ABA's Model Rules of Professional Conduct**
 - **Rule 7.1: Communications re: services**
 - **Rule 7.2: Advertising**
 - **Rule 7.3: Solicitation**
 - **Rule 7.4: Communication of practice**



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Employment Competition

- **Within employment context, tensions have arisen between staff interpreters and deaf employees**
- **Staff interpreters have been promoted to oversee deaf employees**
- **In some situations, staff interpreters have become interpreter coordinators**
- **In such situations, interpreters may put own career before the interests of deaf employees**
- **Has happened in different fields: private government, theater/movies**



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Adverse Expert Witness Testimony

- **CPC should ban all forms of expert witness testimony that is contrary to interest of deaf community**
- **Such testimony breeds distrust and division**
- **Has already happened, and has been detrimental to the civil rights of deaf community**
- **Even testimony focusing on interpreting techniques retained by counsel opposing interests of deaf individuals can be detrimental**



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Adverse Consultations

- **Interpreters/agencies are hired for consultations**
- **Such consultations may place profits above interests of deaf community**
- **CPC focuses on interpreting services, does not include tangential consultations**
- **Such profit based consultations breed distrust and division**



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Working for Agencies/VRI Ignoring Consumer Needs

- To many in deaf community, VRI is a form of pestilence**
- While VRI and interpreting services can be life-saving and beneficial, can also be harmful**
- Agencies/VRI often negotiate exclusive contracts, but exclusivity sometimes fails to provide effective communication and can harm deaf consumers**
- CPC needs to address harmful effects of exclusive contracts**



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Time to Update the CPC

- **Need to work together to update the CPC**
- **Divide between interpreters and deaf community is growing**
- **Time to bring everyone together by addressing these areas of division**



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