

Chapter RL 201

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS; UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

RL 201.01 Unprofessional conduct is prohibited.

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Unprofessional conduct includes any of the following:

(1) Conduct in the practice of sign language interpretation which evidences a lack of knowledge or ability to apply professional principles or skills.

(2) Failing to notify the department in writing within 30 days of any certification, verification, or membership required for licensure being revoked, suspended, expired, or invalidated. This may include certification, verification, or membership by or in National Association of the Deaf, Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., Wisconsin Interpreting and Transliterating Assessment, or any other certification determined to be substantially similar to certification by the National Association of the Deaf or Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. by the department.

(3) Failing to notify the department in writing within 30 days of being convicted of any crime.

(4) Violating the terms of any disciplinary order of the department.

(5) Disclosing any aspect of a confidential communication facilitated by the DRL–licensed interpreter unless one of the following conditions apply:

(a) All parties to the confidential communication consent to the disclosure.

(b) A court determines that the disclosure is necessary for the proper administration of justice.

(6) Failing to convey the content of communications accurately, using language most readily understood by consumers, accounting for their requests or needs regarding language preferences, and correcting errors discreetly and expeditiously.

(7) Failing to facilitate communication in a way that allows for meaningful and equitable access to communication that will support the full interaction and independence of consumers.

(8) Discriminating in the provision of services on the basis of the race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, or sexual orientation of any party to an interpreting situation.

(9) Providing services when not competent to do so due to physical, mental, or emotional incapacity.

(10) Providing services while the DRL–licensed interpreter’s ability to provide such services is impaired by alcohol or other drugs.

(11) Providing services which are inconsistent with the DRL–licensed interpreter’s skill levels or for which the DRL–licensed interpreter is not qualified to perform services given the language used, communication mode and setting, or consumer needs.

(12) Failing to monitor the accuracy of the message, and correct such message as necessary, while functioning as a team member.

(13) Failing to request deaf interpreters, when necessary to fully convey the message or to address exceptional communication challenges such as may arise from cognitive disabilities, emerging or limited language proficiency, lack of formal instruction or language, or the use of foreign sign language.

(14) Failing to obtain the consent of all parties to an interpreting situation before allowing an intern to observe or participate in an assignment.

(15) Performing services in situations that involve an actual or perceived conflict of interest unless there is disclosure to all participants and agreement to proceed regardless of the conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest. DRL–licensed interpreters may not proceed to perform services if the party for whom the services are being provided may not have the mental capacity to appreciate the actual or perceived conflict of interest.

(16) Performing services for a family member.

(17) Performing services for an individual when the DRL–licensed interpreter is the legal guardian for the individual.

(18) Assuming dual or conflicting roles in interdisciplinary settings.

(19) Using confidential interpreted information for personal, monetary, or professional gain or for the benefit of professional affiliations or entities.

(20) Acting as an advocate while functioning as a DRL–licensed interpreter or as an interpreting team member.

(21) Being convicted of any state or federal crime which substantially relates to the practice of sign language interpreting.

(22) Failing to maintain ethical business practices whether in private practice or as an employee of an agency or other entity.

(23) Failing to accurately represent the DRL–licensed interpreter’s qualifications, such as certification, education, and experience, failing to provide documentation of the DRL–licensed interpreter’s qualifications when requested, or failing to ensure that the DRL–licensed interpreter’s qualifications are accurately represented by any agencies or entities that contract for or schedule the DRL–licensed interpreter’s services.

(24) Engaging in any harassing, intimidating, or coercive business tactics.

(25) Failing to comply with continuing education requirements as mandated for its members by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., the National Association of the Deaf, or their successors, or any other certifying organization that the department determines to be substantially equivalent to the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., the National Association of the Deaf, or their successors.

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