

## **Appendix B - Ethical Guidelines For Transcommunicators**

### ***RID Code of Ethics*** (*Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf*) **(Adopted 1979)**

- 1) Interpreter/Transliterater shall keep all assignment-related information strictly confidential.
- 2) Interpreter/Transliterater shall render the message faithfully, always conveying the content and spirit of the speaker, using language most readily understood by the person(s) whom they serve.
- 3) Interpreter/Transliterater shall not counsel, advise, or interject personal opinions.
- 4) Interpreter/Transliterater shall accept assignments using discretion with regard to skill, setting, and the consumers involved.
- 5) Interpreter/Transliterater shall request compensation for services in a professional and judicious manner.
- 6) Interpreter/Transliterater shall function in a manner appropriate to the situation.
- 7) Interpreter/Transliterater shall strive to further knowledge and skills through participation in workshops, professional meetings, interaction with professional colleagues and reading of current literature in the field.
- 8) Interpreter/Transliterater, by virtue of membership in or certification by the R.I.D., inc. shall strive to maintain high professional standards in compliance with the code of ethics.

### ***RID Code of Ethics*** (*Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf*) **(Rough Draft - 2005)**

Interpreters have a professional responsibility to:

- 1) Adhere to standards of confidential communication.
- 2) Possess interpreting competence commensurate with the communication event.
- 3) Actively engage in ongoing professional development.
- 4) Demonstrate respect for all consumers and their diversity.
- 5) Demonstrate respect for the profession, other colleagues, and students of the profession.
- 6) Render services linguistically accessible and appropriate for the situation.
- 7) Conduct themselves in a manner befitting the assigned setting.
- 8) Ensure that working conditions are conducive to excellence in service delivery.
- 9) Serve as a resource on interpreting and relevant services, as needed.
- 10) Maintain ethical business practices.

### ***RID Code of Professional Conduct*** (*Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf*) **(Final Draft – July, 2005)**

#### **Tenets**

1. Interpreters adhere to standards of confidential communication.
2. Interpreters possess the professional skills and knowledge required for the specific interpreting situation.
3. Interpreters conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the specific interpreting situation.
4. Interpreters demonstrate respect for consumers.
5. Interpreters demonstrate respect for colleagues, interns, and students of the profession.
6. Interpreters maintain ethical business practices.
7. Interpreters engage in professional development.

## ***AVLIC Code of Ethics*** (*Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada*)

- 1) The visual language interpreter will keep all assignment-related information strictly confidential.
- 2) The visual language interpreter will render the message by faithfully conveying its intent and spirit.
- 3) The visual language interpreter will not counsel, advise, or interject personal opinions related to the interpreted assignment.
- 4) The visual language interpreter will use the preferred language of the person(s) for whom she/he is interpreting.
- 5) The visual language interpreter will accept assignments using discretion with regard to the interpreting skills required, the setting, and the person(s) involved.
- 6) The visual language interpreter will approach the matter of compensation in a fair and equitable manner.
- 7) The visual language interpreter will conduct herself/himself in all phases of the interpreting situation in a manner befitting the profession.
- 8) The visual language interpreter will strive to further individual knowledge and skill in order to maintain high professional standards.

## ***AIIC Code of Professional Conduct*** (*Association Internationale Des Interpretes de Conférence / International Association of Conference Interpreters*)

### **I. Purpose and Scope**

#### Article 1

- a) This code of Professional Conduct and Practice (hereinafter called “the Code”) lays down the conditions governing the practice of the profession by members of the Association.
- b) Members are bound by the provisions of the Code. The Council, with the assistance of the Association’s members, shall ensure compliance with the provisions of the Code.
- c) Candidates for admission shall undertake to adhere strictly to the provisions of the Code and all other AIIC rules.
- d) Penalties, as provided in the Statutes, may be imposed on any member who infringes the rules of the profession as laid down in the Code.

### **II. Code of Ethics**

#### Article 2

- a) Members of the Association shall be bound by the strictest secrecy, which must be observed towards all persons with regard to information gathered in the course of professional practice at non-public meetings.
- b) Members shall not derive any personal gain from confidential information acquired by them in the exercise of their duties as interpreters.

#### Article 3

Members of the Association shall not accept engagements for which they are not qualified. Their acceptance shall imply a moral undertaking on their part that they will perform their services in a professional manner.\*

#### Article 4

- a) Members of the Association shall not accept any employment or situation which might detract from the dignity of the profession or jeopardize the observation of secrecy.
- b) They shall refrain from any conduct which might bring the profession into disrepute, and particularly from any form of personal publicity. They may, however, for professional reasons advertise the fact that they are conference interpreters and members of the association.

#### Article 5

- a) It shall be the duty of members of the Association to afford their colleagues moral assistance and solidarity.
- b) Members shall refrain from statements or actions prejudicial to the interests of the Association or its members. Any disagreement with the decisions of the Association or any complaint about the conduct of another member shall be raised and settled within the Association itself.
- c) Any professional problem which arises between two or more members of the Association may be referred to the Council for arbitration.
- d) As regards candidates, however, infringements of the code or other rules of the Association shall be adjudicated by the Admissions and Language Classification Committee.

#### Article 6

Members of the Association shall not accept, and still less offer, conditions of work which do not meet the standards laid down in the Code, either for themselves or for interpreters engaged through them.

\* The moral undertaking given by AIIC members under article 3 of the Code of Professional Conduct shall apply equally to the performance of services by interpreters who are not members of AIIC but are engaged through a member.

# *The Cued Speech Transliterator Code of Conduct*

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**A Cued Speech Transliterator shall:**

**1) Facilitate communication for hearing-impaired/deaf consumers of cued speech (clients)**

Cued speech transliterators serve to remove expressive and receptive communication difficulties/ambiguities between hearing-impaired/deaf clients and hearing consumers. Facilitation of communication (spoken), however, should not exclude concurrent consideration for and conveyance of auditory environmental stimuli.

**2) Provide sound-based environmental information to hearing-impaired/deaf consumers of cued speech (clients)**

Cued speech transliterators should include appropriate representation of auditory environmental stimuli as it occurs, without the influence of personal judgment as to its value to the hearing-impaired/deaf client. This conveyance of auditory environmental stimuli should serve to facilitate a common mainstream experience. Inclusion of auditory Environmental Stimuli, however, should not exclude concurrent consideration for and facilitation of communication (spoken).

**3) Provide appropriate client training to allow for proper transliterator utilization**

Cued speech transliterators serve in an ongoing training capacity with regard to client-transliterator utilization. The development of transliterator usage skills should always be facilitated with tact, reasonable judgment, and prudent regard for the rights of the hearing-impaired/deaf client.

**4) Provide hearing consumers with appropriate demonstration/explanation of the transliterator role**

It is reasonable to assume that hearing consumers are unfamiliar with or do not understand the aspects of a transliterating situation which are intended to preserve the equal access rights of the hearing-impaired/deaf client. Consequently, Cued Speech transliterators must secure the confidence and support of said consumers through role demonstration and/or explanation in order to appropriately implement methods used to preserve these equal access rights.

**5) Demonstrate and implement ongoing reverence for the preservation and promotion of complete and equal access for the hearing-impaired/deaf client**

Cued speech transliterators should always maintain the skills and conduct necessary to preserve the equal access rights of the hearing-impaired/deaf client. This includes appropriate remediation of the lack of logistical and/or ethical considerations on the part of others. Equal access rights include unconventional as well as conventional factors available to the mainstream population.

**6) Promote the progression of events as if circumstances do not necessitate transliterator presence**

Cued speech transliterators strive to maintain an atmosphere, environment, and consequent experience unaffected, even incidentally, by their necessary presence and function. Most individuals rarely come in contact with a working transliterator in a mainstream situation. Consequently, the common mainstream experience is not influenced by the presence of a transliterator. Therefore to allow the hearing-impaired/ deaf client equal access to this common experience, transliterators must avoid influencing the atmosphere, environment, and resulting experience of the mainstream.

**7) Adhere to the ethical standards of transliterating for hearing-impaired/deaf clients**

Clients must have reason to trust that through Cued Speech transliterator utilization they are afforded the same conventional and unconventional rights, privileges, and opportunities as individuals who need not utilize such services. Ethical standards\* have been adopted and must be practiced by transliterators to secure the trust of clients and offer them fair and equal access. (\* the Code of Ethics of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf; ©1989 RID, Inc.)

**8) Support the profession of cued speech transliteration by striving to improve related skills and knowledge and the application thereof**

The hearing-impaired/deaf client is entitled to receive the most effective service available in the field of cued speech transliteration. Therefore, it is the professional responsibility and ethical obligation of cued speech transliterators to adhere to and implement the currently acceptable philosophies and techniques in the field.