

EXPECT THE INTERPRETER TO...

SPEAK simultaneously to enable the non-English speaker to hear all that an English-speaker would hear, even the non-confidential conversations that are part of a legal proceeding and *don't go on the record*.

BE the ear and the voice of the non-English speaker, a vehicle of communication. Nothing more, nothing less.

INTERPRET all elements of communication, including pauses, hedges, and self-corrections.

INTERPRET legal and other specialized terms and concepts correctly, even if there is no equivalent in the non-English language. For example, for the three-word concept: "baby-bonding therapy", the Spanish interpreter has to use ten words to render an interpretation : "terapia para fortalecer el apego entre el bebé y la madre".

SIGHT TRANSLATE a short document

FOLLOW the train of thought of the speaker precisely and accurately concept for concept, not necessarily word for word.

BE an impartial party, **MAINTAIN** confidentiality and **FOLLOW** courtroom protocols.

HAVE a general understanding of legal processes and procedures, and an ample vocabulary of legal terms at the ready.

DON'T EXPECT THE INTERPRETER TO...

STOP interpreting when a judge indicates that statements are off the record. An interpreter has an ethical duty to interpret everything an English speaker would hear, unless specifically ordered not to do so by the Court.

GIVE advice or take the role of paralegal or attorney (i.e. the interpreter will sight-translate a form, but not explain it).

SUMMARIZE or sanitize speech. Unlike what is customary in other interpretation settings, such as in international conferences, in court, interpreters must not cover for speakers' flaws or word choices.

STEP out of the interpreter's role to help the non-English speaker understand or adapt the level of the language to suit the perceived or known educational background of the non-English speaker.

INTERPRET as fast as a speaker can read. Pre-memorized speeches of judges or attorneys delivered at reading speed, and with many legal concepts can compromise the accuracy of the interpretation.

MAKE assumptions about what the speaker intended to say, but didn't say or make sense out of something nonsensical.

INTERPRET speech that is too fast or inaudible. The proper use of **microphones** in the courtroom by all the speakers is necessary for the rendering of accurate and complete interpretations.

KNOW specifics of California law, idiosyncratic uses of terms, or acronyms like FCS, FPP, DFCS, JPD, etc.