



United States District Court  
Southern District of California

INTERPRETER'S WRITTEN OATH

ON MY WORD OF HONOR, AS OFFICIAL COURT INTERPRETER AND OFFICER OF THE  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA,

I, \_\_\_\_\_, swear or affirm to be true to the Code of  
Ethics of my profession, and to discharge faithfully the following solemn  
duties and obligations:

I WILL interpret accurately and faithfully to the best of my ability. I  
will convey the true meaning of the words, phrases, and statements of the  
speaker, and I will pay special attention to variations of the target  
language due to educational, cultural, and regional differences.

I WILL never interject my own words, phrases, or views, and if the need  
arises to paraphrase any statements in order to convey the proper meaning, I  
will do so only after the presiding judicial officer has granted permission.

I WILL familiarize myself with the case as much as possible prior to  
going into the courtroom. I will inquire whether the language in the case  
will involve terminology of a technical nature or a particular vernacular  
that would require special preparation. I will study the indictments or  
charges to avoid possible interpretation problems during formal court  
proceedings.

I WILL speak in a clear, firm, and well-modulated voice, and when using  
inflections, I will be particularly careful not to allow them to be  
interpreted as partiality. I will employ the techniques of interpretation  
best suited to the situation at hand or according to the needs or wishes of  
those utilizing my services.

I WILL maintain an impartial attitude during the course of interpreting  
and will guard any confidential information entrusted to me. I will not  
discuss the testimony or the merits of the case under any circumstances, with  
anyone, particularly not with those for whom I interpret.

I WILL attempt to establish rapport with the persons needing my  
services and will explain to them my position as an impartial officer of the  
court, serving both the court and the individuals involved in the case.

I WILL adopt a conservative manner of dress and conduct in upholding  
the dignity of the court and of my profession, particularly when attention is  
upon me in the courtroom. I will familiarize myself thoroughly with all the  
local court rules and I will abide by them.

I WILL strive constantly to improve my knowledge of legal terminology  
in English and in the language I interpret, and to be familiar with general  
courtroom procedures.

I WILL be personally responsible for having the proper dictionaries and  
other linguistic reference materials readily available for consultation when  
needed.

So Help Me God.

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Signature

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Date