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SUPERIOR COURT CLERK

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MOHAVE

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
ADOPTION OF CODE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR COURT INTERPRETERS	)	**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 97-31**

WHEREAS there has been interest in providing increased accountability in the performance of court interpreters in the trial courts; and

WHEREAS the National Center for State Courts has developed a model code of responsibility for court interpreters to provide some basic requirements; and

WHEREAS the Mohave County judges have had an opportunity to review this code of responsibility for comment and applicability in the Mohave County Courts;

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the attached Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters in the Mohave County Court System is adopted effective January 1, 1998.

DATED this 4th day of December, 1997.

Honorable Gary R. Pope, Presiding Judge
Mohave County Court System

Original filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court in Mohave County.

Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters in the Mohave County Court System

Standard 1: Accuracy and Completeness

Interpreters shall render a complete and accurate interpretation or sight translation, without altering, omitting, or adding anything to what is stated or written, and without explanation.

Standard 2: Representation of Qualifications

Interpreters shall accurately and completely represent their certifications, training and pertinent experience.

Standard 3: Impartiality and Avoidance of Conflict of Interest

Interpreters shall be impartial and unbiased and shall refrain from conduct that may give an appearance of bias. Interpreters shall disclose any real or perceived conflict of interest.

Standard 4: Professional Demeanor

Interpreters shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the dignity of the court and shall be as unobtrusive of possible.

Standard 5: Confidentiality

Interpreters shall protect the confidentiality of all privileged and other confidential information.

Standard 6: Restriction of Public Comment

Interpreters shall not publicly discuss, report, or offer an opinion concerning a matter in which they are or have been engaged, even when that information is not privileged or required by law to be confidential.

Standard 7: Scope of Practice

Interpreters shall limit themselves to interpreting or translating, and shall not give legal advice, express personal opinions to individuals for whom they are interpreting, or engage in any other activities which may be construed to constitute a service other than interpreting or translating while serving as an interpreter. Interpreters shall notify the court when a witness asks a question or seeks other information from the interpreter or court.

Standard 8: Assessing and Reporting Impediments to Performance

Interpreters shall assess at all times their ability to deliver their services. When interpreters have any reservation about their ability to satisfy an assignment competently, they shall immediately convey that reservation to the appropriate judicial authority.

Standard 9: Duty to Report Ethical Violations

Interpreters shall report to the proper judicial authority any effort to impede their compliance with any law, any provision of this code, or any other official policy governing court interpreting and legal translating.

Standard 10: Professional Development

Interpreters shall continually improve their skills and knowledge and advance the procession through activities such as professional training and education, and interaction with colleagues and specialists in related fields.