



**Rules of
Department of Commerce and
Insurance**

**Division 2232—Missouri State Committee of Interpreters
Chapter 3—Ethical Rules of Conduct**

Title	Page
20 CSR 2232-3.010 General Principles	3
20 CSR 2232-3.020 Consumer Welfare	4
20 CSR 2232-3.030 Mentorship	4



**Title 20—DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE AND INSURANCE
Division 2232—Missouri State Committee
of Interpreters
Chapter 3—Ethical Rules of Conduct**

20 CSR 2232-3.010 General Principles

PURPOSE: This rule provides the ethical principles governing the practice of interpreting.

(1) The Ethical Rules of Conduct for Interpreters (hereinafter ethical rules) shall apply to a licensed interpreter, temporary licensed interpreter, applicant for licensure and applicant for temporary licensure (hereinafter referred to as interpreter or interpreters). A violation of these ethical rules constitutes unprofessional conduct and is sufficient reason for disciplinary action.

(2) An interpreter must maintain a current certification. For the purposes of this rule, certification is defined as National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (NRID) certificates, which include Comprehensive Skills Certificate (CSC), Certificates of Interpreting/Certificate of Transliteration (CI/CT) and Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI); National Association of the Deaf (NAD) certificate levels 3, 4, and 5; and Missouri Interpreter Certification System.

(3) An interpreter shall not interpret in a setting beyond his or her certification level, as provided for in 5 CSR 100-200.170.

(A) This rule does not apply to a licensed, certified interpreter acting in a mentee role as outlined in 20 CSR 2232-3.030.

(4) A person is not considered to be interpreting pursuant to sections 209.319 to 209.339, RSMo if, in a casual setting, a person is acting as an interpreter gratuitously or is engaged in interpreting incidental to traveling.

(A) A casual setting is defined as any event in which the sole purpose of communication is social or family interaction and at which no decisions are made with long-term effects of a legal, financial, or medical nature.

(5) For the purpose of these rules, a consumer shall be defined as any person, persons, or entity receiving interpreting services.

(6) An interpreter shall not accept or continue an assignment if the interpreter does not possess the ability, education, training, expe-

rience, and qualifications as defined in 20 CSR 2232-3.010(2).

(7) An interpreter shall convey the content and affect of the source message transmitted, in a culturally and linguistically accurate manner, using the language or communication system most readily understood by the consumer.

(A) For the purpose of these rules, message shall mean the auditory or visual information that is to be interpreted into another language or communication system.

(8) An interpreter shall not misrepresent her/his licensure, ability, education, training, educational credentials, or certification as defined in 20 CSR 2232-3.010(2).

(9) The interpreter shall not interject personal opinion during an assignment or on matters pertaining to the assignment.

(10) The interpreter shall safeguard any information obtained relating to an assignment. If an interpreting assignment is an event open to the public, the interpreter may disclose information regarding the location of the assignment and general nature of the event.

(11) When an assignment is not an event open to the public, an interpreter shall not disclose information relating to the assignment to include location, nature of the assignment, or individuals present during the assignment without the written consent of the consumer.

(A) For the purpose of this rule, an interpreter may disclose the general location of an assignment for the purpose of contacting the interpreter, in the event of an emergency. However, the interpreter shall remain responsible for any unauthorized disclosure of information relating to an interpreting assignment.

(B) An interpreter may reveal such information as reasonably necessary to establish a claim or defense in a legal proceeding.

(12) The interpreter shall not accept or continue an assignment when the objectivity or competency of the interpreter is or can reasonably be expected to be impaired because of an emotional, mental, psychological, or substance abuse disorder.

(13) The interpreter shall not accept or continue an assignment if the interpreter's inability to remain neutral affects the interpretation.

(14) The interpreter shall not accept or continue an interpreting assignment when the

objectivity or competency of the interpreter is impaired because of the interpreter's familial, sexual, and/or emotional relationship with the consumer or consumer's family.

(15) If the interpreter discovers a need to withdraw from an assignment, the interpreter shall advise the consumer.

(16) An interpreter shall not delegate an assignment to a person who is not qualified or does not possess the appropriate certification, as defined in rule 20 CSR 2232-3.010(2), for the service to be provided.

(17) An interpreter shall not engage in an exploitive relationship with a consumer. For the purposes of these ethical rules of conduct, an exploitive relationship is any relationship between the interpreter and consumer that may take advantage of, or cause harm to, the consumer. Examples of exploitive relationships include, but are not limited to:

(A) Extending or lengthening an assignment for the purpose of financial gain.

(B) Requesting a consumer reset an appointment so that the interpreter can attend another appointment, for the purpose of financial gain.

(C) Suggesting to a consumer that the interpreter has special skills or abilities that make him or her specially suited for an assignment, unless the suggestion is based on fact.

(D) Suggesting to a consumer that another interpreter is not qualified or able to interpret for a particular consumer, deaf person, or in a particular setting, unless the suggestion is based on fact.

(18) An interpreter shall maintain an appearance that does not interfere with the message as defined in 20 CSR 2232-3.010(7)(A).

(19) An interpreter must respond in writing, within thirty (30) days from the date of a written request or inquiry from the committee, mailed to the interpreter's address currently registered with the committee.

(A) A request for an extension of time to respond to the committee's written request or inquiry shall include a good faith explanation of the need for additional time and an estimate of when the response can be expected. Requests shall be granted at the committee's discretion.

(B) If an interpreter cannot disclose relevant information in response to the committee's written request or inquiry, the interpreter shall so state in the timely response. Such a response shall fully state the nature of any privilege or privacy right asserted. Any



non-privileged or non-private information relevant to the committee's request or inquiry shall be included in the response.

(20) An interpreter shall not practice interpreting as defined in section 209.285(20), RSMo upon the lapse, expiration, suspension, or revocation of a certification.

AUTHORITY: section 209.328.1, RSMo 2000 and sections 209.285, 209.321, and 209.334, RSMo Supp. 2007. This rule originally filed as 4 CSR 232-3.010. Original rule filed Feb. 18, 1999, effective July 30, 1999. Amended: Filed Dec. 1, 2000, effective May 30, 2001. Amended: Filed Nov. 6, 2002, effective May 30, 2003. Amended: Filed Sept. 8, 2003, effective March 30, 2004. Amended: Filed March 18, 2005, effective Sept. 30, 2005. Amended: Filed Dec. 1, 2005, effective June 30, 2006. Moved to 20 CSR 2232-3.010, effective Aug. 28, 2006. Amended: Filed July 17, 2006, effective Jan. 30, 2007. Amended: Filed Dec. 14, 2007, effective June 30, 2008.*

**Original authority: 209.285, RSMo 1994, amended 2002; 209.321, RSMo 1994, amended 2002, 2004; 209.328, RSMo 1994; and 209.334, RSMo 1994, amended 2002.*

20 CSR 2232-3.020 Consumer Welfare

PURPOSE: This rule provides the ethical principles governing the practice of interpreting and the consumer.

(1) Before beginning an interpreting assignment, an interpreter shall provide to the consumer and purchaser of the interpreter's services the following elements of informed consent:

- (A) License and level of certification;
- (B) Relationship to the consumer;
- (C) If videotaping is utilized, how the tapes will be used; and
- (D) If the interpreter is serving as a mentor for another interpreter, how confidentiality is maintained relating to the assignment.

(2) Upon request from a consumer, the interpreter shall provide the following:

- (A) Services the interpreter will provide;
- (B) Financial arrangements; and
- (C) Limits to confidentiality regarding an individual, couple, family, or group.

(3) When interpreting multiple assignments for the same consumer(s) or platform interpreting, an interpreter shall not be required to provide the information outlined in 20 CSR 2232-3.020(1) before beginning the assignment.

(4) Within the limits of the law, an interpreter shall report to the committee all knowledge pertaining to known or suspected violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of interpreting as defined in section 209.285.1(20), RSMo, and any other applicable laws or rules.

AUTHORITY: section 209.328.2(1) and (3), RSMo 2000. This rule originally filed as 4 CSR 232-3.020. Original rule filed Feb. 18, 1999, effective July 30, 1999. Moved to 20 CSR 2232-3.020, effective Aug. 28, 2006. Amended: Filed May 27, 2008, effective Nov. 30, 2008.*

**Original authority: 209.328, RSMo 1994.*

20 CSR 2232-3.030 Mentorship

PURPOSE: This rule outlines how an interpreter may participate in an area above the skill level currently held by the mentee as prescribed in 5 CSR 100-200.170 Skill Level Standards on the basis of a mentor relationship.

(1) For the purpose of this rule, a mentorship is a supervised professional experience in which a mentor interpreter provides instruction, guidance, and oversight to a mentee interpreter while engaged in a series of instructional activities designed with the purpose of attaining clearly defined, specific professional development goals.

(A) Applications for mentorship shall be submitted to the committee on forms prescribed by the committee prior to the start of the mentorship. The application shall contain statements demonstrating the education, professional experience, and certification by either the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, National Association of the Deaf, or Missouri Interpreters Certification System and such other information requested by the committee. The application shall also contain a description of the professional development goals for the mentorship, the instructional activities that will be used to accomplish those goals, and the methods of assessment that will be used to evaluate those goals.

(B) Each application shall be accompanied by the required application fee. The application fee is non-refundable. A mentorship shall be valid for a period of time not to exceed six (6) consecutive months.

(2) A mentor interpreter shall be an interpreter who has a current license, and a current Missouri Interpreters Certification System (MICS) Basic, Advanced certification for

five (5) years or Master certification for three (3) years or a current nationally recognized certification as prescribed in section 209.322, RSMo and 20 CSR 2232-2.040 for five (5) years.

(A) The mentor shall be limited to a maximum of three (3) mentoring relationships at the same time.

(3) A mentee shall be an interpreter who has a current license, and a current Missouri Interpreters Certification System (MICS) Basic or Advanced certification or a current nationally recognized certification as prescribed in section 209.322, RSMo, and 20 CSR 2232-2.040.

(A) The mentee is limited to a maximum of three (3) mentoring relationships at the same time.

(4) While engaged in a mentorship approved by the committee and while under the direct supervision of a mentor interpreter, a mentee interpreter may interpret in an interpreting assignment that is one (1) skill level above the mentee's current certification level as prescribed in the Skill Level Standards, 5 CSR 100-200.170.

(A) The mentee shall revert the duties of the assignment to the mentor at the mentor's request.

(B) A mentor shall function as a guide and provide oversight to the mentee in the interpreting assignment and have the appropriate training, skills, education, and certification for the assignment as required by the Skill Level Standards (5 CSR 100-200.170).

(C) The mentor must be present and is responsible for the accuracy of the interpretation within the interpreting assignment.

(D) Prior to the interpreting assignment, all participants in the assignment must be informed of the license and certification level held by the mentor interpreter and mentee interpreter as required in 20 CSR 2232-3.020 and of the responsibilities of the mentor interpreter and mentee interpreter as defined in 20 CSR 2232-3.030(4).

(E) Prior to the interpreting assignment, all participants in the assignment must give approval for the mentee interpreter to interpret, while under the direct supervision of the mentor interpreter.

(F) The mentor is not responsible for the actions and conduct of the mentee outside of the interpreting assignment.

AUTHORITY: section 209.328.1, RSMo 2016. This rule originally filed as 4 CSR 232-3.030. Original rule filed March 18, 2005, effective Sept. 30, 2005. Moved to 20 CSR 2232-3.030, effective Aug. 28, 2006.*



Amended: Filed Dec. 14, 2007, effective June 30, 2008. Amended: Filed July 26, 2019, effective Jan. 30, 2020.

**Original authority: 209.328, RSMo 1994.*