



## Principles of Professional Practice

All Registered and Trainee Sign Language Interpreters who are Members of SASLI will be expected to follow the Principles of Professional Practice and be familiar with the Complaints Policy and Procedure.

For the purpose of this document the term 'professional' is understood by SASLI interpreters as follows:

***We are competent to practice, have integrity, are trustworthy, accountable and reliable. 'Professional' in this context is also indicative of the commitment SASLI interpreters have with participants within the interaction and is bound by the parameters as set out in these Principles of Professional Practice. 'Professional' does not refer to standing or status, rather it encompasses the appropriate conduct and qualities of SASLI interpreters.***

### THE PRINCIPLES OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Professional accountability:	Accept responsibility for professional decisions and actions.
Professional competence:	Commit to provide quality professional service throughout one's practice.
Non-discrimination:	Provide professional service with respect and cultural sensitivity.
Integrity in professional relationships:	Be honest and fair with participants and colleagues.
Integrity in business:	Be honest and fair in all business practices.

We understand that each of these principles are to be considered when making ethical and professional decisions.

*(‘We’ for the purpose of this document refers to individuals and agencies who hold a SASLI membership).*

### PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

We accept responsibility for all our professional decisions made and actions taken.

#### **Confidentiality**

We respect the privacy of participants and hold in confidence all information obtained in the course of our professional service, both in the interpreting assignment and in the details



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relating to it. Where necessary, we may subsequently disclose pertinent information to look after our well-being.

We will disclose information when harmful behaviour is identified or suspected and when required by law.

### **Professional Conduct**

We will be professional in our practice.

We will consider the needs of all participants when making professional decisions.

We recognise that other professional codes of conduct may impact upon our work. In such circumstances cross-professional compromises need to be reached.

We recognise that all work undertaken on an individual basis, whether pro bono or paid, will ultimately reflect our integrity and our profession.

We will disclose any conflicts of interest and will not abuse our position for gain or advantage either for ourselves or for others.

We will not knowingly accept work that is beyond our linguistic and technical ability.

We will reflect on how interpreting interactions can affect us personally and the quality of our work. This can include but is not limited to emotional, physical, sexual, or verbal actions.

We will discuss and resolve, in a professional manner, issues arising from our professional practice with colleagues. If attempts to resolve the issue have not been successful the SASLI Complaints Policy should be followed.

We will not counsel or offer opinions during or in relation to an assignment. When working it may be appropriate to comment on the overall effectiveness of communication, the interpreting process and to suggest appropriate resources, information and signposting.

We will not accept subsequent private bookings which we initially received through an agency.

## **PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE**

We will provide the highest possible quality of service, accepting responsibility for our own work through all aspects of our professional practice.



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### **Quality of Practice**

We will have completed appropriate training and assessments in accordance with our level of SASLI registration providing us with the knowledge and skills to support accurate and appropriate interpretation.

### **Quality of Interpretation**

We will always endeavour to provide an accurate interpretation of the source language to achieve target language equivalence.

We will consider the health & safety needs of participants including ourselves in terms of the length and intensity of the work, requirement for breaks and, should the situation warrant it, the need for more than one interpreter to ensure the quality of service can be maintained.

### **Continuing Professional Development**

We will build on our knowledge and skills by continuing our professional development throughout our careers in accordance with SASLI CPD Policy.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION**

We will provide a professional service with respect and cultural sensitivity to all participants.

### **Respect**

We will respect the individuality, the right to self-determination, the autonomy, the language and/or communication preference of the people with whom we work. We will be aware of the longstanding power structures which often disadvantage Deaf people. We will not discriminate against the protected characteristics (contained within the Equality Act 2010).

## **INTEGRITY IN PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS**

We will deal honestly and fairly with participants and our colleagues while establishing and maintaining professional boundaries.

### **Professional Relationships**

We understand the difference between professional and social interactions and will establish and maintain appropriate boundaries between ourselves and participants. Our relationship with all parties involved will be fair and professional.

### **Deaf Interpreters**

We will, where appropriate, recognise the need for and advocate the use of a Deaf interpreter as a part of the professional interpreting team.



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### **Impartiality**

We will not make any conscious decision to alter a message for our personal political, religious, moral, or any of our other biased views. If we are unable to put aside our personal views we will consider our options, which may include declining work or withdrawing.

### **Respect**

We will respect and encourage our interpreting colleagues and represent our profession by ensuring collaborative and safe relationships, free from bullying and intimidation.

### **Professional Associations**

We will support SASLI and other organisations who represent our profession.

## **INTEGRITY IN BUSINESS**

We will deal honestly and fairly with consumers and colleagues in all business practices.

### **Business Practices**

We will not knowingly undercut or compete unfairly with our colleagues. We will consider the sustainability of the profession when establishing personal terms and conditions and when agreeing to those set by agencies.

We will honour our professional commitments according to our agreed terms and conditions and invoice appropriately. When agreeing pro bono services we will consider the implications of this work on the livelihood of other interpreters.

We will always accurately represent our credentials.