

The Independent Registration Panel

IRP

for
British Sign Language/English Interpreters

CODE OF ETHICS 2008-2009

In this document *interpreter* means any person who is registered by the Independent Registration Panel (IRP) as a *Member of the Register of BSL/English Interpreters (MRSLI)*, a *Trainee Interpreter (TI)* or a *Junior Trainee Interpreter (JTI)*, according to the current conditions of registration.

Interpreters are expected to abide by the *Code of Ethics* and to follow the *Guidelines for Professional Practice for BSL/English Interpreters* which covers issues of professional competence, practice and procedures that are specific to the work of an interpreter.

The *Code of Ethics* sets out the principles that underpin the work of an interpreter. The purpose of the *Code of Ethics* is to ensure that a working interpreter considers the fundamental rights of those involved in, or affected by, any aspect of an interpreting assignment. The interpreter should be able to justify any course of action by reference to the *Ethical Principles*.

Ethical Principles

These are the principles of the *Code of Ethics* that are agreed by all registered interpreters.

The interpreter shall:

- do no harm;
- be honest;
- keep her/his word;
- act justly and fairly;
- respect the personal choices another person makes;
- strive to do good.

In the event of a conflict arising between principles, priority should be given to 'do no harm'.

These six principles support and shape the *Guidelines for Professional Practice*.

Under the *Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure* an interpreter may be asked to explain why they seemed to breach the *Guidelines for Professional Practice*. They may defend their action by reference to the *Ethical Principles*.