INTERPRETER BASIC SCREENING[1]

WCL relies on its interpreters to provide the best possible services for its clients and expects the highest ethical standards from its volunteers. Please answer the following questions accurately and honestly. You may type in the grey areas (they will expand to fit what you write). You may select boxes by simply clicking on them.

Today's date:

A. Your Contact Information

1. Name

2. Address

3. E-Mail Address

4. Phone #(s)

B. Language Abilities

1. What is/are your native language(s) and dialect(s) (if any,) and what are your country and region of origin?

2. In your native language, can you:

   a. Comprehend speakers of this language from different areas of the country/world?
   - ☐ always
   - ☐ most of the time
   - ☐ frequently
   - ☐ rarely or never

   b. Use correct pronunciation and intonation?
   - ☐ always
   - ☐ most of the time
   - ☐ frequently
   - ☐ rarely or never

[1] *Adapted from APALRC Interpreter Interview, in* ASIAN PAC. AM. LEGAL RES. CTR., ENSURING MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO LEGAL SERVICES: A MODEL FOR A LEGAL INTERPRETER PROJECT App. J (2004); *Information that Should be Secured to Establish the Qualifications of Interpreters When No Court Testing or Other Prior Screening Standards Exist, in* WILLIAM E. HEWITT, COURT INTERPRETATION: MODEL GUIDES FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE IN THE STATE COURTS 148 (1995), *available at* http://www.ncsconline.org/wc/publications/Res_CtInte_ModelGuidePub.pdf); *Self-Assessment of Readiness to Take the FCICE, in* ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS, FEDERAL COURT INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION FOR SPANISH/ENGLISH EXAMINEE HANDBOOK Part 5 (Mar. 22, 2004), *available at* http://www.cps.ca.gov/fcice-spanish/eh5.htm; Hans Buwalda, *Basic Competencies for Mental Health Interpreters, at* http://www.asylumsupport.info/publications/mlshs/mentalhealth.html (last visited July 12, 2004).

c. Understand and use colloquialisms and slang expressions?
   - ☐ always
   - ☐ most of the time
   - ☐ frequently
   - ☐ rarely or never

d. Interpret speech into another language promptly, without errors or omissions?
   - ☐ always
   - ☐ most of the time
   - ☐ frequently
   - ☐ rarely or never

e. Research the meaning of specific words and terms efficiently and effectively?
   - ☐ always
   - ☐ most of the time
   - ☐ frequently
   - ☐ rarely or never

3. What other languages do you speak fluently?

4. If English <u>is not</u> a native language, how did you learn English?

   If English <u>is</u> a native language, how did you learn your other language(s)?

5. In your <u>other</u> language(s), can you:

   a. Comprehend speakers of this language from different areas of the country/world?
      - ☐ always
      - ☐ most of the time
      - ☐ frequently
      - ☐ rarely or never

   b. Use correct pronunciation and intonation?
      - ☐ always
      - ☐ most of the time
      - ☐ frequently
      - ☐ rarely or never

   c. Understand and use colloquialisms and slang expressions?
      - ☐ always
      - ☐ most of the time
      - ☐ frequently
      - ☐ rarely or never

   d. Interpret speech into another language promptly, without errors or omissions?
      - ☐ always
      - ☐ most of the time
      - ☐ frequently
      - ☐ rarely or never

   e. Research the meaning of specific words and terms efficiently and effectively?
      - ☐ always

☐ most of the time
☐ frequently
☐ rarely or never

6. How long have you lived in the United States?
   ☐ Less than 1 year
   ☐ 1-3 years
   ☐ 3-5 years
   ☐ 5-10 years
   ☐ More than 10 years
7. How long have you lived in a country where your other fluent language(s) is spoken?
   ☐ Less than 1 year
   ☐ 1-3 years
   ☐ 3-5 years
   ☐ 5-10 years
   ☐ More than 10 years
8. Have you formally studied your native language in school? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   To what extent?
9. Have you formally studied your other language in school? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   To what extent?
10. Tell us what you do to maintain and improve your knowledge of English?

11. Tell us what you do to maintain and improve your knowledge of your other language?

C. Interpretation Skills

1. What prior interpretation experience do you have?
   ☐ None
   ☐ Volunteer. Please explain:
   ☐ Paid. Please explain :
2. Do you have any formal training or credentials as an interpreter? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, please list:
3. Do you interpret consecutively? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   Simultaneously? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. What reference materials and work tools do you use during interpretation?

D. Knowledge of Interpretation Protocol and Ethics

1. When working as an interpreter, what is your role?

2. What do you think is your most important ethical consideration as an interpreter?

3. What would you do if you could not understand something the client said?

4. What would you do if there was a cultural communication problem during the meeting?

5. What would you do if someone in your community asked what you know about the client?

6. Is it O.K. for an interpreter to give advice to a client? Why or why not?

E. Familiarity with Legal Situations

1. Do you know how the legal system in the United States works? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, how did you learn?
2. Are you familiar with legal vocabulary in both your native and other language? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   What reference materials do you use?
3. Have you interpreted in legal situations before? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   For what situation?
   How many times?
4. What do you think is the biggest challenge to interpreting in a legal situation?

F. Translation Skills

1. What prior experience do you have providing written translation services?
   ☐ None
   ☐ Volunteer. Please explain:
   ☐ Paid. Please explain :
2. Do you have any formal training or credentials as a translator? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If yes, please list:
3. Are you most comfortable translating from English into your other language(s) or from your other language(s) into English?
   ☐ From English
   ☐ Into English
   ☐ Both
4. What steps do you take to ensure the quality of your written translations?

5. Are you able to type using MS Word in both English and your other language? ☐ Yes ☐ No
6. How long might it take you to translate a standard one-page letter from English?

7. How do you handle English terms for which no precise translation may exist in your other language (e.g. Food Stamps)?

8. What is the role of proofreading in the translation process?

9. What reference materials do you use to assist you with your translations?

10. How do you maintain your knowledge of written English and your other language(s)?