

CHAPTER 963
DISCIPLINE FOR SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLITERATORS
[Prior to 9/18/24, see Professional Licensure Division[645] Ch 363]

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 5/22/29

481—963.1(154E) Definition.

“Consumer” means an individual utilizing interpreting services who uses spoken English, American Sign Language, or a manual form of English, and in an interpreting situation or setting, the term “consumer” includes both the deaf or hard-of-hearing individual or individuals and the hearing individual or individuals present in such situation or setting.

[ARC 7831C, IAB 4/17/24, effective 5/22/24; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 9/18/24]

481—963.2(154E,272C) Grounds for discipline. The board may impose any of the disciplinary sanctions provided in rule 481—363.2(154E,272C) when the board determines that the licensee is guilty of any of the following acts or offenses or those listed in 481—Chapter 504:

963.2(1) Unethical conduct. In accordance with Iowa Code section 147.55(3), behavior (e.g., acts, knowledge, and practices) that constitutes unethical conduct includes but is not limited to the following:

- a. Engaging in sexual activities or sexual contact with a consumer when there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the consumer or when the relationship could reasonably be expected to interfere with the interpreter’s or transliterator’s objectivity, competence, or effectiveness.
- b. Failure to decline or to withdraw from an interpreting or transliterating assignment when the interpreter or transliterator does not possess the professional skills and knowledge required for the specific interpreting or transliterating situation or setting.
- c. Failure to refrain from providing advice or personal opinions or aligning with one person over another in the course of one’s professional duties.
- d. Discriminating against a consumer on the basis of age, sex, race, creed, illness, marital status, political belief, religion, mental or physical disability or diagnosis, sexual orientation, or economic or social status.
- e. Failure to inform a consumer when federal or state laws require disclosure of confidential information.
- f. Failure to avoid a conflict of interest when there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the consumer or when the relationship could reasonably be expected to interfere with the interpreter’s objectivity, competence, or effectiveness; or failure to disclose to a consumer an actual or perceived conflict of interest.
- g. Failure to present a professional appearance that is not visually distracting and is appropriate to the setting.
- h. Failure by a temporary license holder to comply with the requirements of 481—subrule 961.2(6).

963.2(2) Reserved.

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These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 147, 154E and 272C.

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