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The Supreme Court of Ohio
Module 5: The Modes of Interpretation
Lesson 1: Introduction
The Supreme Court of Ohio | Language Services Program

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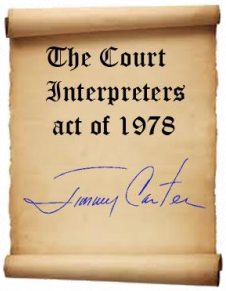

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Summary For Interpreters

1. Every element must be preserved.
2. Flavor of speech is important to make judgments about credibility.
3. Witness should not be interrupted.
4. Must be able to do simultaneous interpreting.

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Summary For Interpreters

5. Should NEVER give legal advice.
6. Need a comprehensive knowledge of both languages and NEVER misrepresent the level of sophistication of the speaker.

CONSERVATION: Render form and manner including pauses, hedges, self-corrections, and emotions (tone of voice).

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Therefore We Must Interpret

- Without omissions
- Accurately, without distortion of *meaning*
- Without any changes in style, or “register”
- Without additions
- With as little delay or interference in the routine pace as possible

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Modes of Interpretation

- Consecutive
- Sight Translation
- Simultaneous

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When Do We Use Consecutive?

- Must be used at the witness stand
- LEP/NES is being deposed
- LEP/NES is part of a question-answer exchange

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When Do We use Sight Translation?

- When the interpreter is called to read documents written in English for the benefit of the LEP/NES
- When the Interpreter is required to read documents written in a foreign language for the record

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When Do We Use Simultaneous?

- Any time the LEP/NES is present and their case is being discussed by other parties
- Used most frequently during trials and long hearings