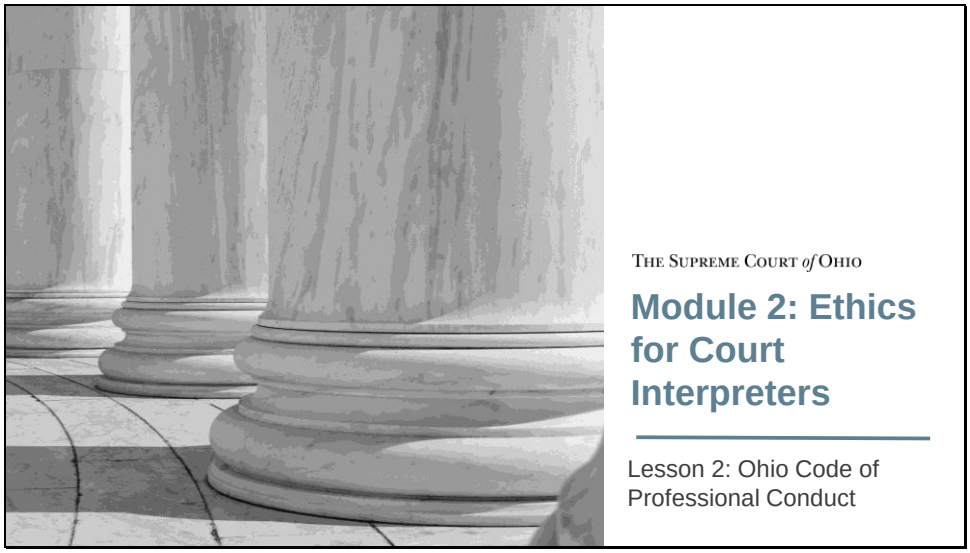
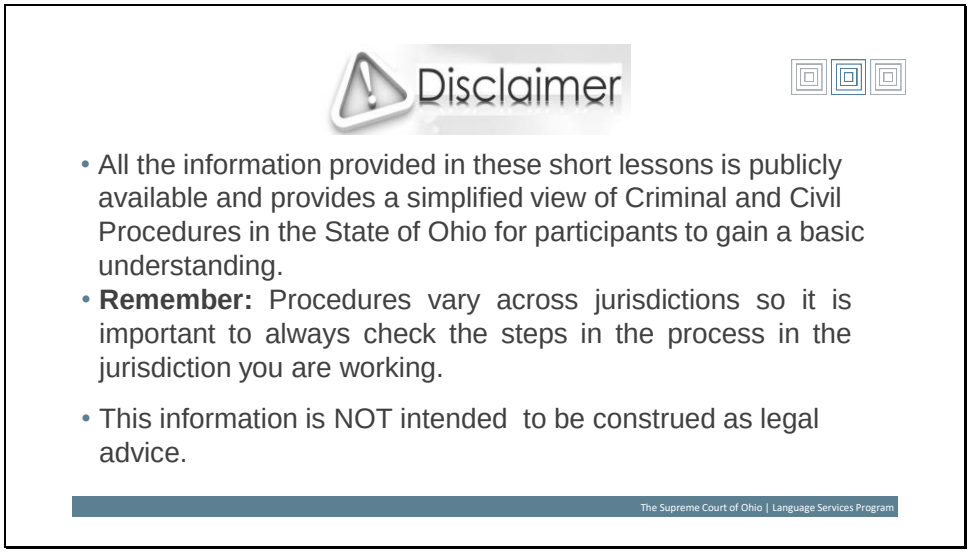
Slide 1


THE SUPREME COURT of OHIO
Module 2: Ethics for Court Interpreters
Lesson 2: Ohio Code of Professional Conduct

Slide 2


Disclaimer
• All the information provided in these short lessons is publicly available and provides a simplified view of Criminal and Civil Procedures in the State of Ohio for participants to gain a basic understanding.
• **Remember:** Procedures vary across jurisdictions so it is important to always check the steps in the process in the jurisdiction you are working.
• This information is NOT intended to be construed as legal advice.
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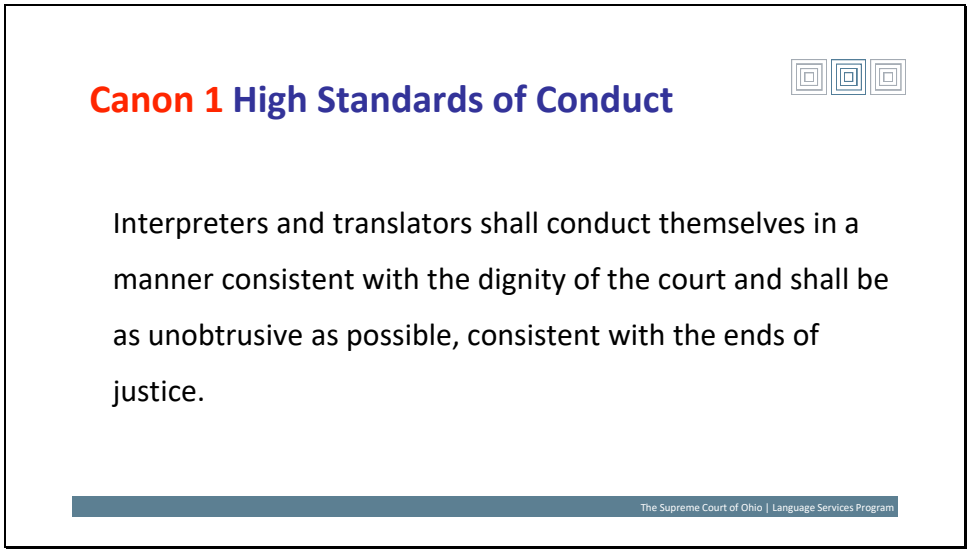
Slide 3


Canon 1 High Standards of Conduct
Interpreters and translators shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the dignity of the court and shall be as unobtrusive as possible, consistent with the ends of justice.
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Slide 4

Ohio Code of Professional Conduct

Promoting public confidence

Slide 5

Canon 2 Accuracy and Completeness

Interpreters and translators shall render a complete and accurate interpretation or translation without altering, omitting, or adding anything to what is spoken or written, and shall do so without explaining the statements of the original speaker or writer.

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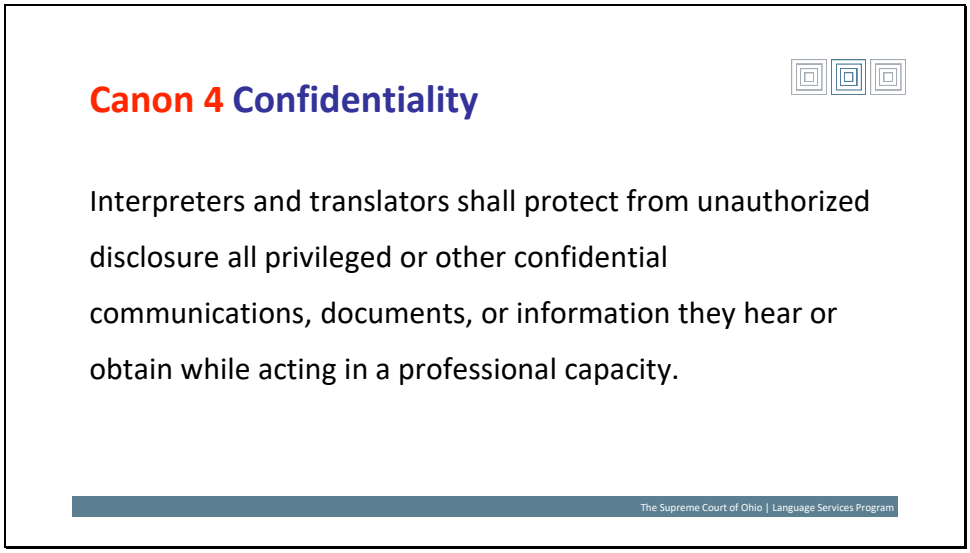
Canon 3 Impartiality and Avoidance of Conflicts of Interest

Interpreters and translators shall be impartial and unbiased. Interpreters and translators shall refrain from conduct that may give the appearance of bias and shall disclose any real or perceived conflict of interest.

Slide 7


Canon 4 Confidentiality
Interpreters and translators shall protect from unauthorized disclosure all privileged or other confidential communications, documents, or information they hear or obtain while acting in a professional capacity.
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Ohio Code of Professional Conduct

Privileged information and the interpreter

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Canon 5 Representation of Qualifications

Interpreters and translators shall accurately and completely represent their credentials, certifications, training, references, and pertinent experience.

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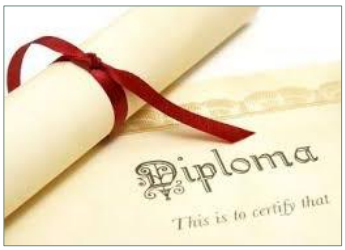
Ohio Code of Professional Conduct

Professional qualifications



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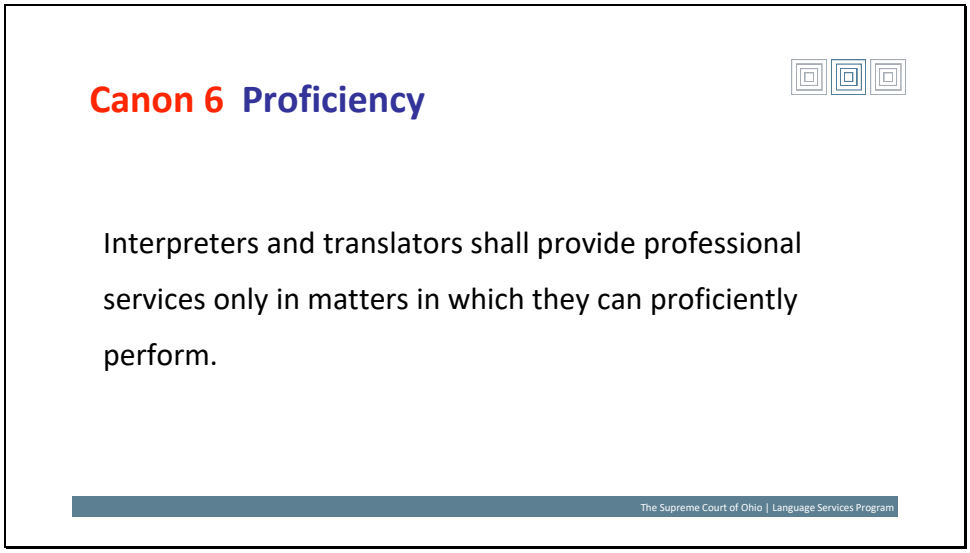
Canon 6 Proficiency
Interpreters and translators shall provide professional services only in matters in which they can proficiently perform.
The Supreme Court of Ohio | Language Services Program

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Canon 7 Assessing and Reporting Impediments to Performance

Interpreters and translators shall at all times assess their ability to perform effectively and accurately. If an interpreter or translator discovers anything impeding full compliance with the oath or affirmation of the interpreter or translator and this code, the interpreter or translator shall immediately report this information to the court.

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Ohio Code of Professional Conduct

On-the-spot requests

Slide 14

Canon 8 Duty to Report Ethical Violations

Interpreters and translators shall report to the court any efforts to impede their compliance with any law, this code, or other official policy governing interpreting or translating. Interpreters and translators shall promptly report to the appropriate legal or disciplinary authority if they observe another interpreter or translator improperly performing an assignment; accepting remuneration apart from authorized fees; disclosing privileged or confidential communications, documents, or information; or otherwise committing a breach of this code.

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Ohio Code of Professional Conduct

Slide 16

Canon 9 Scope of Practice

Interpreters and translators shall not give legal advice, communicate their conclusions with respect to any answer, express personal opinions to individuals for whom they are interpreting or translating, or engage in any other activity that may be construed to constitute a service other than interpreting or translating while serving as an interpreter.

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Ohio Code of Professional Conduct

Your role: to interpret or translate

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Canon 10 Restrictions from Public Comment

Consistent with Canon 4 of this code, interpreters and translators shall not publicly discuss, report, or offer an opinion concerning a matter in which they are or have been engaged, even when that information is not privileged or required by law to be confidential.

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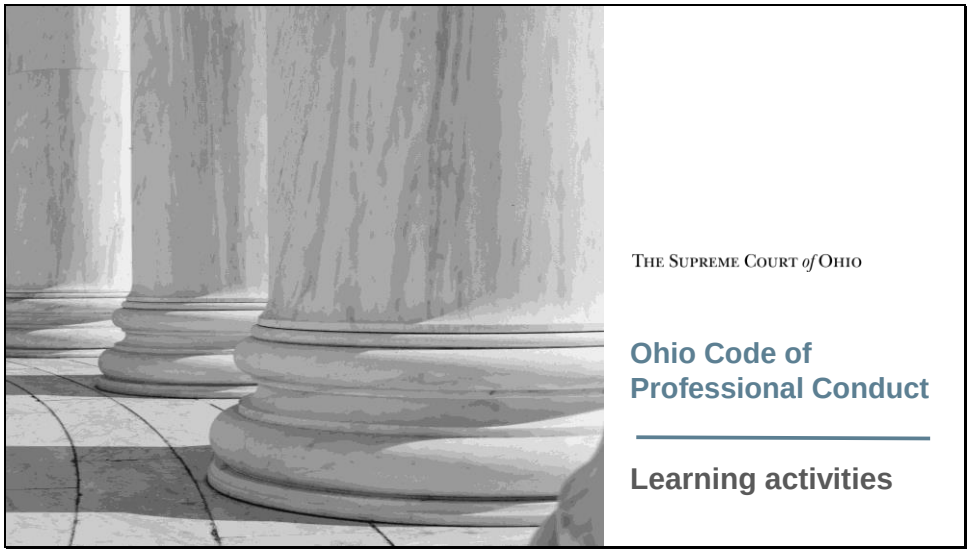
Ohio Code of Professional Conduct

Be careful what you say!

Slide 20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Learning activities