

DOs & DON'Ts

Basic Tips for Attorneys when working with Interpreters

- ✓ **DO** run a conflicts check
- ✗ **DO NOT** assume that the interpreter does not have a conflict of interest with the client

- ✓ **DO** speak in the 1st person
- ✗ **DO NOT** say “Ask the client...” or “Tell them that...”

- ✓ **DO** try to simplify legal language
- ✗ **DO NOT** use complicated terms

- ✓ **DO** speak and assure that others speak at a volume and rate that can be accommodated by the interpreter
- ✗ **DO NOT** speak at your normal rate, especially for dates and numbers

- ✓ **DO** make certain that the interpreter can easily hear and see your interaction with the client
- ✗ **DO NOT** move them out of the way

- ✓ **DO** your best to assure only one person speaks at a time
- ✗ **DO NOT** speak when others are speaking

- ✓ **DO** your best to assure that no side conversations happen
- ✗ **DO NOT** engage in a side conversation while you are with your client. These conversations are not interpreted.

- ✓ **DO** allow the interpreter to take notes and use a dictionary/glossary
- ✗ **DO NOT** require the interpreter to work without resources

- ✓ **DO** assure that the interpreter can effectively communicate with the client
- ✗ **DO NOT** assume that everyone who comes from the same country speaks the same language can understand each other well

- ✓ **DO** provide interpreters with information about the case ahead of time
- ✗ **DO NOT** presume that the interpreter will be prepared for case-specific technical vocabulary without being briefed on it ahead of time

For further questions, please email us at probono@lacs.nv.gov