

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR LINGUISTS

Interpreters and translators have an important role as intermediaries in the context of international understanding. As their professional designation is not a protected one, it is crucial that the rules concerning the fulfilment of professional obligations be observed so as to preserve the reputation of the profession. For this reason, the interpreters and translators who have amalgamated to form the ADÜ Nord, have adopted the following Code of Professional Ethics, which forms an integral component of the Association's Constitution.

Art. 1 General principles

1. Interpreters and translators shall practice their profession objectively, impartially and conscientiously. Through their professional and non-professional activities, they must demonstrate their fulfilment of the levels of trust and respect commensurate with the status and role of interpreter and translator. Furthermore, they may not do anything to undermine the reputation of the profession and the Association.
2. Interpreters and translators may only work in those languages and specialist areas in which they possess flawless knowledge, such that they are able to conscientiously perform the tasks assigned to them.
3. Interpreters and translators may only bear those academic titles to which they are entitled according to the applicable statutory regulations.

Art. 2 Fulfilment of contracts

1. Interpreters and translators bear full responsibility for their work.
2. Interpreters and translators have complete discretion regarding the acceptance of a contract, unless the law or the Code of Professional Ethics prohibits them from accepting a particular contract.
3. In particular, interpreters and translators may not undertake work if
 - a) the conduct expected of them would breach their professional obligations,
 - b) they have already been or will be engaged by another client in connection with the same matter, and this create a conflict situation for them.
4. Interpreters and translators must issue any rejection without delay, when their professional services are requested, but they are unable or unwilling to accept the contract in question.

5. Interpreters and translators may only cancel contracts with a reasonable period of notice, unless imperative reasons otherwise exist.
6. Interpreters and translators shall comply with agreement concerning deadlines and time periods. If material reasons make this impossible, they must inform the relevant parties without delay.

Art. 3 Duty of non-disclosure

1. The duty of non-disclosure applies to all information that becomes known to interpreters and translators as part of their professional activities, unless an exception is permitted by statute or according to the principles of case law. This obligation shall continue to endure after the contractual arrangement has ended.
2. The instructions issued by the client cannot be used as justification for any infringement of the duty of non-disclosure. This applies equally to any other violations against the Code of Professional Ethics.

Art. 4 Competition

Interpreters and translators shall refrain from any form of unfair competition, especially relating to advertising connected with the profession. They shall accept work in return for fees that reflect the economic value of their professional activities.

Art. 5 Collegial practices

Members shall refrain from defamatory practices vis-à-vis their colleagues. If it is necessary to criticise the flawed work produced by a colleague, this criticism shall be expressed objectively and calmly.

Art. 6 Disputes

In the event that the administrative bodies of the Association are required to handle disputes concerning individuals' activities as members of the Association or in connection with the profession, when requested interpreters and translators shall be obliged to provide information and relevant documentation, unless this would entail an infringement of any duty of non-disclosure. If called upon, they shall personally appear at the proceedings or meetings conducted before these administrative bodies, or before a member delegated by said bodies.

Compliance with the principles set out above, is monitored by the administrative bodies designated by the Association's By-Laws; the By-Laws are available to every member of the Association. This Code of Professional Ethics was approved by the General Assembly on 28 March 2009 and came into effect on 28 March 2009.