

# Is your interpreter qualified?

Here are some questions you can ask:

1. Tell me about your education, training, and any credentials/degrees in either language.
2. Tell me about the languages you speak, and how well you speak them. (conversational, fluent, advanced fluency)
3. Tell me about your experience as an interpreter?
4. Can you interpret simultaneously? Consecutively? Sight translation?
5. Are you comfortable interpreting for someone from [country of person needing an interpreter]?
6. I will be talking to [person requiring interpretation] about [subject]. Are you familiar with the key and common terms in this area, such as [term 1] and [term 2]?
7. Are you familiar with the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Interpreters? Please explain some of its main points.



## If the interpreter seems to be qualified

based on answers to the questions above, ask:

8. Have you ever been disqualified from interpreting?
9. Are you involved in any way with this case?  
For example:
  - Are you a potential witness or party in this case?
  - Have you worked with any of the lawyers, parties or witnesses in this case?
  - Is there any conflict of interest, such as [give example]?
10. Have you spoken with [person requiring your services]?
  - Do you understand him/her well?
  - Does s/he understand you?

### Code of Ethics

**Accurate:** When you interpret, use the first person (“I”). Say exactly what was said. Do not add, delete, simplify, or explain. If you are not sure of a term, say so. The court or lawyer will tell you what to do next.

**Impartial:** Remain uninvolved with all parties and the case.

**No advice:** Do not give advice or make suggestions, even if asked to do so.

**Performance:** Do not accept or continue a job that you cannot do well. Examples, if you can’t hear, don’t know the specialized terms, or do not understand a person’s dialect.

**Confidential:** Do not repeat or talk about any case you interpret for.

**Professional:** If asked, give information about your training, credentials, and experience.

**Continuing Education:** Take classes and do activities to continuously improve your skills.