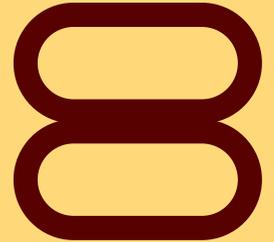
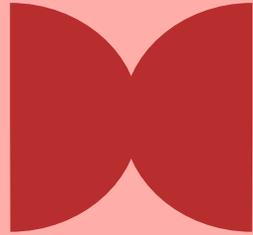


A Refresher in
Courtroom Team
Interpreting in a
Post-Pandemic Era:
Performance,
Practice,
and Protocol



New Mexico Translators & Interpreters Association
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Welcome
Thank you for joining us today!

Facilitators



Rebecca began her interpreter career in Colorado, and has over 20 years experience in court interpreting. She has been the staff interpreter at Santa Fe District Court since 2017, and was at Metro Court in Albuquerque for 10 years.

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Nohemí is a certified court interpreter since 2012. She is a freelance contractor with the NMAOC, other gov't and private entities, and enjoys collaborating and working with colleagues in the field.

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FLOW



Goal & Objective:

- Revisiting the concept of team interpreting in the courtroom post-pandemic



Performance

- Bank of Knowledge
- The switch-off
- Off the mic
- Client Perception



Practices

- My arrival @ court
- Interpreter independence
- When & how do I help?
- Consulting with my Team



Protocol

- Check-in @ court
- Court culture & practices
- Placement
- By your side

What's the goal of this workshop?

- Improve team performance
- Establish & maintain good practice
- Acknowledge & respect practices and protocol



The Challenge

Now we have established the goal!

How do we reach this objective?

- Set your ego aside
- Have an open mind
- Encourage collaboration
- Treat every team interpreter experience as a learning opportunity
- Be receptive, encourage growth, and share ideas
- Communication is key



Skit



Breakdown:

- Identify what happened?
- Why is this behavior considered inappropriate?
- What corrective measure should be implemented?
- What types of recourse exist?
- What happens if the individual does not self-correct?

Performance

12

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1

Bank of Knowledge

- We each have our own professional backgrounds, experience, and wealth of knowledge. Mine it!
- Enrichment through partner experience.
- Gender communicative styles and their influence, have you noticed?

2

The Switch-off

- Why? Because we need respite; to rest our brain and vocal chords.
- Try to attempt a natural break if possible, gauge it.
- If your partner is unaware of their active time, give a signal to switch, Or make a move! Support task.
- Establish length, and adjust if necessary

3

On-the-mic

- "How do I say this?"
Receiving help as a team interpreter.
- Help with terminology, concepts, research.
- Learning to improve our speed, cadence, and flow.
- It's all about word economy!
- Consistent Presence

4

Client Perception

- Ensure that the interpretation is consistent between the team.
- Make the switch-off as smooth as possible, and seamless.
- Place yourself within view, line-of-sight if possible.
- Be as non-disruptive as possible.

Practice



1

Arriving @ Court

- Always check-in
- Know where to go?
Simply ask!
- Arrive in a timely manner
- Do not always rely on your team getting there first
- Do not be the habitual offender- tardiness

2

Interpreter Independence

- You are responsible for the equipment upon arrival and departure
- Know how to use and manipulate
- Know what behaviors and responsibilities are expected of you
- Ask for proceeding(s) info from coordinator or staff

3

Off-the-Mic: When & How Do I Offer Help?

- Gauge when to help
- Offering unnecessary help can be disruptive
- Be present! Being available can be helpful.
- What is considered too much help?
- Do not create a hostile environment
- Respect everyone's individual knowledge!

4

Consulting My Team

- Establish a consensus for the sake of consistency & your client: pre-session
- Inform partner of previous knowledge of a continuous proceeding
- Partner, not helper!!
- Interdependence, not independence

Protocol



1

Checking-in

- Checking-in is essential
- Always introduce yourself to the bailiff, court monitor, and if you get a chance, the judge.
- Give your name to the monitor for the record.
- Sometimes exchanging info is necessary for covering dockets, unexpected hearings

2

Court Culture

- Imagine being a guest at someone's house.
- Every courtroom functions according to the judge
- Each courthouse has its own protocols and culture-familiarize yourself if you're not a regularly visiting interpreter.

3

Movement in Court

- Some judges have a preference
- Always ask about preference regarding interpreter placement
- Ask if movement is allowed
- Never block a proceeding participant's line-of-sight!

4

Permanence in the Courtroom

- You're being paid to be present- you are the "life line" as the support interpreter
- Being off-the-mic doesn't mean breaking from the proceeding, it's not a "break"
- You are a team! Pursue your necessary deed and return
- Be present- you might have to step in!

Summary

- Team Interpreting is an INTERDEPENDENT environment, NOT INDEPENDENT
- Always Be MENTALLY and PHYSICALLY present
- Establish a Set of Standards beforehand, if possible, have a Pre-session
- Know how to research terminology- don't always settle on your first result and consult
- For tenured or seasoned interpreters, help onboard newer colleagues
- Learning can be scary and embarrassing, but always be open for growth
- Always engage professionally and ethically- with your team and court staff, personnel
- Strive for an accurate record- team interpreting is a "quality control mechanism"

Discussion

The Human Element

When is there an
exception to the
Standards of Practice?

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Physical Needs & Health Situations

External Emergencies

Unexpected Hearings & Proceedings

Flexibility is Imperative Due to the Unpredictable Nature of the Industry

Teamwork, Preferences, & Mutual Respect

We're a team!

What are your thoughts?



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- What experience do you have?
- How do you think team interpreting can improve?
- What is a particular practice or protocol you employ?
- What do you do to improve your performance?
- How comfortable are you stepping in?
- What if your team has a different protocol than you? What then?

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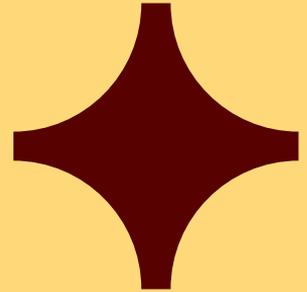
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Thank you!

