

WHEN AN ADULT INTERPRETER IS REQUIRED

PSSC Student Interpreters have been trained to recognize situations which require an adult interpreter or in which there may be a conflict of interest for the Student Interpreter. *Please do not pressure our Student Interpreters to interpret if they decline an assignment or if they request to be dismissed from an assignment that is already in progress.*

Student Interpreters may not interpret in situations where confidential or personal information is likely to be disclosed.

- Knowledge of sensitive information places a heavy emotional burden on young Student Interpreters. For example, they may learn things about people they know that make them feel uncomfortable. Even worse, the obligation to maintain confidentiality means they cannot talk to anyone about these feelings.
- If confidential information becomes public through other channels, the Student Interpreter may be unjustly blamed for the disclosure.

Student Interpreters may not interpret in situations that are likely to become adversarial.

- Interpreting in highly charged situations places a heavy emotional burden on young Student Interpreters.
- Adversarial situations can quickly and unpredictably escalate into physical violence. The interpreter could become the target of an angry or frustrated party to a dispute.
- There may be legal ramifications if a Student Interpreter renders an inaccurate or incomplete interpretation in a sensitive situation.

Student Interpreters may not interpret in situations in which they do not understand the concepts being discussed or the vocabulary being used.

- An interpreter cannot interpret information that he or she does not understand.
- Asking a Student Interpreter to interpret for a complex adult event is setting the student and the event up for failure and putting the reputation of your program at risk.

Student Interpreters may not translate written materials.

- Written translation requires excellent writing skills and years of study and experience.
- Distributing poorly written materials harms your image, diminishes your credibility, and may be insulting to the target reader.
- Distributing inaccurate information will cause problems and frustration.

Please contact [Betsy Ainsworth-Grimm](mailto:Betsy.Ainsworth-Grimm@hdsd401.org) at PSSC if you have any questions about the appropriate use of Student Interpreters.

PSSC (206) 431-5035
Cell (206) 335-7884
ainswob@hdsd401.org

