

Situational Ethics and the Classroom: Welcome to the Playground

In our interpreting world, it is only in the last decade or so that the ethical decisions we make moment by moment are considered situational rather than a strident adherence to the Code of Professional Conduct (CPC). The interview section of the NIC performance exam attempts to understand our rationale for the choices we make, thus recognizing that circumstances influence our ethical choices. There is a world of difference in what is considered appropriate and inappropriate behavior depending on the situation. In particular, when dealing with a conflict, many behaviors which most people consider to be highly inappropriate become highly appropriate. This workshop will explore our personal ethics and how these impact our compliance to our professional ethical code.

Presenter will also explore interpretation of our professional ethics in the educational K-12 setting as a unique application. There are factors that come into play that make the school setting different than most any others interpreters encounter, and interpreters often find themselves in uncharted territory in dealing with children, teachers, counselors, parents, and legal situations such as the IEP meetings.

Presenter will guide participants through a worksheet creating their own personal ethics. Presenter will then explore the tenets of the CPC in conjunction with interpreting scenarios in which participants may find themselves. Discussion and questions will help participants identify which code they are most apt to follow in conflicting situations and where there is dissonance between personal and professional ethics. Once revealed, participants can practice how to blend these ethical views in an effective and professional expression in their work.

Presenter: Paula D. Browning

Paula D. Browning (RID CSC and NIC Advanced, NAD IV, EIPA 4.7) has an eclectic professional background. Interpreting nearly 40 years, she has worked in venues such as Salk Institute, Deaf West Theatre, SERID, CAL-Ed, Alabama Interpreter Metamorphosis, and Alabama's Mental Health Interpreter Training, as well as in educational, community, legal, mental health, and video relay. Paula has presented workshops since 1982, but nationwide since 1997; has been a mentor/trainer in CSUN, Mississippi, Troy University, Georgia Perimeter College's "Boot Camp," and in the Video Outreach Mentorship Program through PEPNet's WROCC. Recently she was published by the release of her DVD "Personal or Professional: The Ethics Conundrum." Quarterly workshops are hosted by her company, Interpreter Guild LLC, in Ocean Springs, MS, bringing in national presenters from all over the United States and encompassing participants from Louisiana to Florida to Tennessee. For more information, go to www.Interpreter-Guild.com.