Interpreter Qualifications

A good interpreter…	A bad interpreter…
▪ Is able to enunciate/articulate in both languages and has a clear speaking voice.	▪ Does not enunciate or articulate in both languages, and struggles with the interpretation process.
▪ Does not pause unnecessarily or excessively.	▪ Pauses excessively.
▪ Interprets everything, including side conversations, insults, curse words, and environmental sounds.	▪ Does not interpret everything in the setting.
▪ Maintains impartiality, not interjecting bias, opinions or favoritism towards certain persons in setting while working.	▪ Interjects opinions, biases, personal favoritisms in setting while working.
▪ Corrects themselves when interpreter errors are made and informs parties.	▪ Does not stop to correct errors or inform parties about the errors.

A good interpreter…	A bad interpreter…
▪ Asks for clarification when appropriate.	▪ Stops for clarification and meanings excessively.
▪ Does not summarize.	▪ Summarizes, and omits information.
▪ Does not accept job if the client is not comfortable with the interpreter due to past experiences, unmatched skills, linguistic struggles or unfamiliarity, or opposite gender / generational discomfort.	▪ Accepts a job regardless of inappropriate/unmatched skills, biases, judgments or opinions that could impede work performance.
▪ Checks in during breaks to make sure everyone is getting the information and asks if adjustments are needed.	▪ Does not check in or is unwilling to receive feedback in order to make adjustments.
▪ Uses first person as a conduit and refers to themselves as "the Interpreter" to ask questions.	▪ Uses third person when interpreting