

## **11 NCAC 23G .0104A FOREIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS**

(a) Any party who is unable to speak or understand English shall so notify the Commission, the mediator, and the opposing party or parties in writing, not less than 21 days prior to the date of the mediated settlement conference. The notice shall contain the party's primary language and how the party plans to communicate in English during the mediation.

(b) The party requesting the assistance of a qualified foreign language interpreter shall bear the costs.

(c) If the certified mediator, in his or her discretion, notifies the parties of the need for a qualified foreign language interpreter, the parties shall retain a disinterested interpreter who possesses the qualifications listed in Paragraph (d) of this Rule to assist at the mediated settlement conference. The fee of the foreign language interpreter and any postponement fees necessitated by the need for a qualified foreign language interpreter shall be shared by the parties unless the parties agree otherwise.

(d) A qualified foreign language interpreter shall possess sufficient experience and education, or a combination of experience and education, in speaking and understanding English and the foreign language to be interpreted, to qualify as an expert witness pursuant to G.S. 8C-1, Rule 702.

(e) Qualified foreign language interpreters shall abide by the Code of Conduct and Ethics of Foreign Language Interpreters and Translators, contained in Part 4 of *Policies and Best Practices for the Use of Foreign Language Interpreting and Translating Services in the North Carolina Court System* and promulgated by the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts, and shall interpret, as word for word as is practicable, without editing, commenting, or summarizing, testimony or other communications. The Code of Conduct and Ethics of Foreign Language Interpreters and Translators is hereby incorporated by reference and includes subsequent amendments and editions. A copy may be obtained at no charge from the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Court's website, <http://www.nccourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/Foreign/Documents/guidelines.pdf>, or upon request, at the offices of the Commission, as set forth in Rule 11 NCAC 23A .0101.

*History Note:* Authority G.S. 97-80(a); 97-80(c); 143-296; 143-300;  
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