

Wisconsin Court Interpreter Program Disciplinary Policy and Complaint Procedure

The opportunity to provide interpreter services to the courts under the direction of the Wisconsin Director of State Courts office, is at the Director's complete and continuing discretion, because of the critical reliance the courts must have on the skills, performance, and integrity of the interpreter in performing duties for the court. This discretion applies to any person who appears on the Director's roster of court interpreters, whether the interpreter is certified, provisional or a trainee.

Complaint Procedure

Any verifiable complaint that an interpreter has acted in a manner inconsistent with the Code of Ethics; has committed a criminal act involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation; or has otherwise acted in a manner that calls into question the interpreter's ability to work effectively in court, may be made to a Judge, Clerk of Court, District Court Administrator, or Court Interpreter Program.

Within 14 days of receipt, the complaint will be forwarded to the Character and Fitness subcommittee, which is a rotating group of 3 members comprised of a judge/court commissioner, an interpreter, and court clerk/administrator from the Committee to Improve Interpretation and Translation in the Wisconsin Courts. The Character and Fitness subcommittee or designee will clarify the facts surrounding the situation and notify the interpreter in writing of the allegation. If the interpreter wishes to respond to the complaint, the interpreter must file a written reply within 20 calendar days of receipt of the complaint, unless allowed additional time by the Director.

The Character and Fitness subcommittee will evaluate all information received on the matter and make a recommendation to the Director of State Courts. During a pending review, or depending on the circumstances of the alleged violation, the Director may suspend the interpreter from the court's roster of available interpreters for a specified period of time with notification to the Clerks of Court and District Court Administrators.

At the conclusion of a review, the Director will make a final determination and may choose to 1) revoke the interpreter's Wisconsin certification credentials for a specified period of time or permanently; 2) decline to confer certification to a non-certified interpreter for a specified period of time or permanently; or 3) require other appropriate disposition.

While it is not necessary to use this specific format, a Grievance Form is available for your convenience.