

Consumers make requests of interpreters everyday: *We'd like you to sit in the back so you don't distract anyone else. Since the deaf person didn't show up, we'd appreciate it if you didn't bill us. Could you hold this suture in place for a sec? When you two switch, why don't you just crawl under the table to get in the middle.*

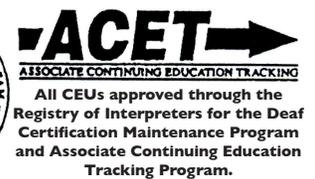
These are just a few examples of real-life requests. If acted upon, some of these could result in violations our ethical guidelines, so "I can't," is a common response. As a result, consumers often report that interpreters are cold, inflexible, and sometimes scolding toward them.

Our decisions have consequences—positive and negative, intended and unintended. As interpreters, we have to be able to examine our decisions (and approaches to those decisions) to see how they will impact the situation and our consumers.

This workshop takes a discussion-based, hands-on approach using role play scenarios that will allow participants to formulate and practice responding to challenging situations in a safe and supportive environment with examination of likely decision-related consequences. Let's move away from "I can't" together.

Topics we will cover

- Know what the tenets of the Code of Professional Conduct actually say
- Discuss ethical situations to see differing perspectives
- Learn a mnemonic device as a guide through ethical decision making
- Strategies for coming to a successful resolution without compromising your ethics
- Practice responding to challenging requests in a safe, supportive environment



David N. Evans is a nationally-certified practitioner with over 25 years of providing ASL-English interpretation services, working extensively in conference settings as well as in music/performing arts, corporate and community settings.

Educating interpreters for two decades, David's sessions are interactive, entertaining, and informative—creating a relaxed, safe environment for all audiences. He has presented at conferences from the local to international with a record attendance of over 1,250 participants at the 2009 RID Conference in Philadelphia. Other accomplishments include presenting at two National Alliance of Black Interpreters (NAOBI) conferences and four national RID conferences. David established Bridge Communications in 1996 to further his goals of providing skill-building workshops and video materials for ASL-English interpreters.

When not on the road presenting, he makes his home with his partner, cat, and dog in Minneapolis, where he enjoys playing Frisbee, listening to disco, and taking walks around the city's many lakes.