

This is a preview of "ISO 13611:2014". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

First edition
2014-12-01

Interpreting — Guidelines for community interpreting

Interprétation — Lignes directrices pour l'interprétation en milieu social



Reference number
ISO 13611:2014(E)

© ISO 2014



COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT

© ISO 2014

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
Web www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

This is a preview of "ISO 13611:2014". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Terms and definitions	1
2.1 Concepts related to interpreting activities.....	1
2.2 Concepts related to interpreted communicative events.....	3
2.3 Concepts related to people or organizations involved in interpreting.....	4
2.4 Concepts related to language, language content, and language competences.....	4
2.5 Concepts related to translation as differentiated from interpreting.....	5
3 Basic principles of community interpreting	5
3.1 Nature of community interpreting.....	5
3.2 The work of community interpreters.....	6
3.3 End users of community interpreting services.....	6
3.4 Interpreting service providers (ISPs).....	6
3.5 Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.....	6
4 Community interpreter's competences and qualifications	7
4.1 General.....	7
4.2 Competences.....	7
4.3 Research skills.....	8
4.4 Interpersonal skills.....	8
4.5 Evidence of qualifications.....	8
5 Recommendations for clients and end users	9
6 Responsibilities of interpreting service providers (ISPs)	10
6.1 Role of ISPs.....	10
6.2 ISPs' responsibilities to the client.....	10
6.3 ISPs' responsibilities to community interpreters.....	10
7 Role and responsibilities of community interpreters	11
7.1 Role of the community interpreter.....	11
7.2 Responsibilities of the community interpreter to the ISP.....	12
Annex A (informative) Community interpreting: Issues, classification, and terminological challenges	13
Annex B (informative) Alphabetical index of vocabulary in Clause 2	14
Bibliography	15

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#).

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 37, *Terminology and other language and content resources*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Translation, interpreting and related technology*.

This is a preview of "ISO 13611:2014". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

Introduction

This International Standard was developed in response to a worldwide need to accommodate linguistic, cultural, and ethnic diversity of people who interact via oral and signed communication. In every nation of the world, there are groups of people who do not speak the language of the majority, regardless of whether they live in their country of citizenship or birth. These linguistic minorities access services through community interpreters, also called public service interpreters (See [Annex A](#) for further details). Community interpreting is essential for members of linguistic minorities who wish to exercise their right to communicate and access services. Community interpreting puts the minority language speaker, who seeks access to a community service, on the same footing as a native speaker of the societal language. The growing cultural and ethnic diversity adds specific challenges to the requirement of delivering services to consumers who do not share the societal language(s). In both urban and rural areas, speakers of the societal language and linguistic minorities communicate effectively, deliver, and access services through community interpreters.

Given the diversity of our world, encounters in which participants do not share a language are becoming more and more common. Community interpreting is a means by which service providers can ensure that the same access to quality of services is offered to all linguistic communities, regardless of their culture or language.

Community interpreting has become established as a professional type of interpreting. There are various codes and standards for specific settings (e.g. healthcare interpreting), but there are currently no universally agreed rules or standards for community interpreters, who are called to work in many different types of community settings.

It is important to stress that interpreting differs from translation as it deals mainly with oral or signed communication rather than written communication. Community interpreting occurs in a wide variety of dissimilar settings and should not be confused with other types of interpreting.