

EXERCISE: BT 3

Module:	Professional Conduct and Guidelines to Good Practice
Type of Exercise:	Group self-study
Topic:	Evidential taped interviews (police)
Learning Outcome(s):	On completion of this exercise, trainees will be able to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• formulate appropriate responses to challenges in the work place• exchange and evaluate ideas with other practitioners.
Language Combination:	English/Other language
Equipment:	N/A
Time:	30 minutes
Suitable for:	Intermediate
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CASE STUDIES

In small discussion groups (4 to 5 trainees), consider and discuss the following situations you might face as an interpreter. Try to consider more than one possible course of action in each case. Evaluate the consequences of a course of action, bearing in mind your professional role, the impact on the other parties to the interpreted event and any other difficulties. Try to agree on the best course of action in each case.

1. You are called to a police station to assist in the recording of a witness statement from a non-English speaking witness. On commencement of the process, the police officer invites *you*, the interpreter, to take the statement from the witness detailing what they remember seeing, while the Police Officer completes some paperwork. What would be the correct course of action in this situation? Discuss.
2. During a tape-recorded interview, the non-English-speaking interviewee interrupts your interpretation and says in English, “No, that’s not what I said.” What would you do in this case? Discuss.
3. While interpreting during an evidential taped interview, you realise that you have misinterpreted some items of speech. What should you do? Discuss.
4. In the custody suite, the interviewee and his/her solicitor insist on having their own interpreter present during the tape-recorded interview, to monitor your interpretation. How would you negotiate this situation? Discuss.
5. On reading through a witness statement that has been recorded in the witness’s own language, he points out a number of places where he wants the statement to be changed. What should you do? Discuss.
6. You are called by the police to take a statement from a non-English-speaking witness regarding a sexual assault. As the taking of the statement progresses, you become aware that the assailant being described (and now under arrest) is your brother-in-law. What would you do? Discuss.

FOLLOW-UP EXERCISE

1. Consider other ethical dilemmas you might encounter in the course of working in a police station and consider solutions.