

## Sample pre-session discussion with an interpreter

*Note: The pre-session with the interpreter is best done before the client arrives, or privately with the interpreter while the client waits in a different room. If the client is present, turn to the client and say in English: I need to talk to the interpreter for just a minute about the rules of how the interpreted session is to be handled. Is that OK with you? (Nod to the interpreter if he/she does not immediately start to interpret what you've said. This is an important first interaction and shows the client many aspects of safety and inclusiveness.)*

Here is a sample script for a pre-session discussion between the clinician and the interpreter:

Hello. My name is INSERT NAME.

My position is as an INSERT PROFESSION at this agency/practice. I am employed here. Everything we say here today is confidential. Do you understand what confidential means? Have you signed the agreement promising not to talk about this with anyone, including your family or the client's family?

Please don't get into side discussions. Let's keep everything transparent and always include the client in our conversations.

I may use a word you don't understand. Please don't guess at the meaning. If words are used that you are not sure of, stop and ask. It's OK to interrupt. Can you do this?

I will say just one sentence at a time and then stop to let you interpret. I'll be asking the client to try to do the same.

I will speak directly to the client, as if we didn't have an interpreter. I will be encouraging the client to speak directly to me. If the client begins to speak to you, I will remind the client to look and speak to me. This is important for the relationship to develop between us.

It is not necessary for you to say "He said", or "she said she wants to..." Just say it the same way we say it... "I want to..." "I have a..." It is faster and will be easier for you.

Any questions?

Now I will ask you to interpret for me as I repeat these rules to the client. Please interpret everything I say. *Invite your client into the session room, thank her/him for the patience of waiting, and state that you are going to repeat the rules of the interpretation so that everyone is clear on how to behave.*