

Are we doing what we think we're doing? Providing Trauma Informed Language Accessible Services.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2009-TA-AX-K022 awarded by the Office of Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



Learning Objectives

As a result of this segment, you will be better able to:

1. Articulate potential issues unique to providing interpretation and translation services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.
2. Apply strategies to institutionalize meaningful and trauma informed language services in language access plans.
3. Identify promising practices for providing trauma informed language accessible being used throughout the country.

What does trauma informed mean to you?

Language Privilege

Perpetrators can use their speaking skills and able to navigate through the cumbersome legal system

How does this impact victims?

- Perpetrators may use the court system to continue to harass the victim even after leaving the relationship
- Perpetrators may seem more credible → victim in an environment where nobody believes him or her, this may impact how they will interact with others
- In some communities, perpetrators may use their language privilege to isolate assistance from other members of the community

Assumptions

- Hetero
- Economic Class
- Intimate Partner
- Co Habitation
- Single Perpetrator

Assumptions

Does gender or age have an impact?

Interpretation refers to the process of orally communicating a spoken or signed message from one language into another language.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSA)

California Administrative Office of Courts

1. Native like proficiency in both languages.
2. Knowledge and use of a broad range of vocabulary, including legal terminology, subject-specific terminology, and slang.
3. Knowledge and use of cultural nuances, regional variations, idiomatic expressions, and colloquialisms in all working languages.
4. Ability to speak with proper pronunciation, diction, and intonation in all working languages.
5. Ability to listen to and comprehend various regional accents and/or dialectical differences in all working languages.
6. Ability to practice and follow ethical standards.

Understanding Interpreter Discomfort

1. Interpreter discomfort is a significant barrier to addressing battered women's experiences or vulnerabilities to sexual violence.
2. Address your own misconceptions, stereotypes, and projections about sexual violence.
3. Sexually assault victims are affected by the levels of interpreter discomfort leading to non disclosure of sexual violence history

Victim blaming

- Most of the attention is negatively focused on the abused
 - Is she being truthful?
 - Why was she there in the first place?
- Attention to the perpetrator is met with a lot of resistance

Do you understand the words coming out of my mouth?

Word choice and understanding. Are
we saying what we think we're
saying.

Anatomy Vocabulary Impacts

Ignorance about anatomy, naming parts of the body and/or using anatomical terms affect interpreters' comfort levels.

- Establish if words, gestures, or drawings will be used
- Do not hide behind formal or clinical terms for body parts
- Be aware of cultural taboos for naming body parts
- Accuracy – maintaining the LEP register

Language: Vocabulary, terms, and interpretation

Acknowledge areas of ignorance or gaps in knowledge and learn how to address them with a victim or get staff support. For example, acts of sex or sexual assault can be described using terms that are unfamiliar to the interpreter (in English or another language).

Interpreters' own reactions, experience, and vulnerabilities

Interpreting sexual violence will bring up reactions from interpreter that can include:

- disassociation
- traumatic flashbacks,
- feeling fear of the perpetrator, or
- feeling disgusted by the details of the story. It is important to identify the possible

Identification of the range of feelings and understanding how they may be rooted in one's own personal experiences and/or family histories.

Who are we asking to interpret?

Training for interpreters

What training do you require staff and volunteers to obtain?

Are they available for your interpreters?

Are you contracting with agencies or interpreters with experience interpreting for victims of trauma?

Finding a qualified interpreter

1. Certification & Registration – Foreign spoken languages
2. Sign Language interpreters

Qualifying Interpreters

1. Are you certified by the State of _____ as a court interpreter?
2. What is your native language?
3. How did you learn English and the target language?
4. Describe your experiences in the _____ non-English Language Country.
5. Do you have experience interpreting in DV/SA?

Hiring bilingual staff – Are you recruiting
bilingual staff?

Pre-session

1. Confirm they speak the same language.
2. Notify the interpreter ahead of time about the subject matter of the communication.
3. Make sure the client is comfortable with the interpreter and that they don't know each other.
4. Inform the client the role of the interpreter.
5. Set up a signal to address problems with the interpreted communication.
6. Notify your client that you will follow up with your client with another interpreter or bilingual staff to make sure the interpretation went well.

Deaf Hope

3-day training for ASL interpreters on trauma informed interpretation.

Interpretation Skills Building Training



APIGBV assists grantees by providing web based and in-person interpretation skills building trainings.

Multilingual Advocate Model

The Asian Women's Shelter supplements the language capacity of staff by recruiting bilingual women in the community as language advocates. These advocates are provided with an initial 42-hour training as well as additional ongoing trainings, support, and supervision. They are paid \$15/hour and work together with staff and clients as a team, depending on the language needs at the shelter.

Community Legal Interpreter Bank

api
Asian & Pacific Islander
Institute on Domestic Violence idv

Ayuda's Community Legal Interpreter Bank provides affordable legal interpreters for the DC legal services community. It identifies experienced interpreters and trains them in skills needed for legal interpretation in the attorney-client setting. Interpreters are then tested to ensure their competence in the fields of their language skills, understanding of the legal system, and adherence to ethical standards.

Resources

1. National Judicial Education Program Sexual Assault Training
 1. <http://www.legalmomentum.org/raped-or-seduced-how-language-helps-shape-our-response-sexual-violence>
 2. Raped or “Seduced” How Language Helps Shape Our Response to Sexual Violence
2. API Institute on Domestic Violence
 1. Lifetime Spiral
 2. Language Access
3. National DV Resource Centers