

Title: Interpreting with parent 1.

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Interpreter, Medical, Hospital, Roles, Code of Practice / Ethics, CODA / HMFD, family, payment.

Dilemma:

My father is Deaf, and has many serious health issues. Increasingly his hospital appointments are cancelled because at the last minute the interpreter doesn't show, or it turns out wasn't booked.

So I now usually go with my father, sometimes to support him, but often as the booked interpreter. I am qualified and registered with both the professional association (ASLI) and registering body (IRP).

Where possible my father would prefer me to be his interpreter, as I am able to provide him with a professional service suited to his needs, and I turn up!

The dilemmas are these:

A number of services, understandably, won't book me to interpret with his, as I am family. However some Interpreting Agencies knowing the issues will book me. Is this ok? What about the ASLI & IRP Codes that I have agreed to follow?

If I am honest and tell the hearing people that I am his daughter, the whole dynamic often changes, and in many cases they will start asking me questions about 'my dad, ask me to explain things to him after the assignment rather than they do it now, etc.

If no interpreter turns up, I will assume the role, unpaid. Should the statutory services be allowed to 'get away with this'? If interpreting unpaid, does that give me greater freedom in how I behave, for example making my own interjections?

Professional and Customer perspectives: Deaf father - Continually turning up to hospitals, to be cancelled when I get there, is heart breaking. If my daughter does it, she turns up, in good time to prepare. She is also an excellent interpreter, and takes the time to make sure that I understand everything. Whilst there are other interpreters who are as good, interpreters often turn up without time to prepare with me before the appointment,

and often I will be given a 'new' or student interpreter, where I often don't understand as much with them.

Work role & Country of sender: Interpreter, England.