

INTERPRETING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN LEGAL SETTINGS

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PLAN

- Short introduction about myself and PSI in the UK
- Interpreting for children
- Problems I have experienced
- What could have helped me do a better job

SHORT INTRODUCTION

- MA in translation, DPSI (Diploma in Public Service Interpreting, Law Option), Met Police Test, MA in Human rights
- 18 years working as a freelance Translator and Interpreter for public services in the UK
- 5 years of field interpreting for the OTP, ICC
- Since Oct. 2018 Translator for the Registry, ICC

SITUATION OF PSI IN THE UK

- Training/qualifications for simultaneous/consecutive/liaison interpreting, but lack of training for specific groups
- Police, Courts
- Social services
- Other services

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN INTERPRETING FOR ADULTS AND INTERPRETING FOR CHILDREN

- **Attention span** (adults vs. children)
- **Importance of tone, voice volume, speed of delivery**
- **Short sentences, right register** (without 'dumbing down')
- **Special attention to interview setting**
- **Need to build a rapport/establish trust** (not only for the interviewer, but also to a certain extent for the interpreter without undermining the interpreter's neutrality)

CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF PROBLEMS I HAVE EXPERIENCED

- **The child not understanding the interpreter's role and its limits**
- **The child getting "attached" to the interpreter**
- **The child making eye contact with the interpreter and not the interviewer**
- **The child not trusting the interpreter**
- **Lack of special consideration for children on the part of some professionals**

CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF PROBLEMS I HAVE EXPERIENCED (continue)

- **More serious problems – inappropriate behaviour on the part of the interviewer**
- **Interpreter's independence** – usual traps: positive comments, trying to compensate for the interviewer's behaviour
- **Proliferation of interpreting agencies and intermediaries involved** (minimal information given pre interview, last-minute assignments, lack of continuity)
- New trends, such as **telephone interpreting**, making the interpreter's job more difficult

WHAT COULD HAVE HELPED ME DO A BETTER JOB

- Pre-interview discussions with interviewer
- Education of interviewer & interpreter on each other's role, exchange of information on expectations and goals
- Importance of short intro on interpreter's role to child
- Offering more training and making training more affordable
- Making other resources more readily available (state of training and available resources at present)