



All Pakistan Newspapers Society

ST-1/E, Block-16, KDA Scheme 36, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Karachi
Tel: 34012491-4, Fax: 34012495, email: apns@apns.com.pk, web:www.apns.com.pk

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April 10, 2014

To: All Member Publications

Sub: PCP Draft Guidelines for Court Reporting in Media

Dear Sirs,

We are in receipt of a letter No.5(3)/2013-J/PCP dated February 21, 2014 from Press Council of Pakistan, Islamabad alongwith Draft Guidelines for Court Reporting in Media as prepared by PCP.

We enclose herewith copy of the above letter and PCP Draft for your information and suggestion to improve upon the Draft Guidelines. Your early response will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

-s/d-

(Dr. Tanvir A. Tahir)
Executive Director
APNS

Encl: as above

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PCP draft Guidelines for Court Reporting in Media

To attain and maintain highest ethical standards while transcribing or broadcasting court proceedings, both at superior and low level, in media, following are the draft PCP guidelines for court reporters to perform their professional duties.

1. Court reporter shall observe the law and maintain high standards of professional conduct.
2. Court reporter shall apply his knowledge and experience working in cooperation with the bench and the bar towards improvement of the administration of justice.
3. Court reporter shall guard against not only the fact but the appearance of impropriety.
4. The reporter shall strive to perfect and enlarge his professional knowledge in addition to improving his skills.
5. The reporter must add to the grace and sanctity of the court by attaining and maintaining highest standards of professional ethics.
6. Court reporter should be committed to integrity and impartiality of the court proceedings.
7. Court reporter shall avoid any appearance of conflict of interest by conducting himself with impartiality towards all participants in every case.
8. All gifts, luncheons and invitations should be given and accepted in the spirit of fostering relationship and not a quid pro quo for work given.
9. The transcript of court proceeding should be true and accurate and provide fair value to its user.
10. Court reporter shall act with diligence to deliver his transcript in accordance with the provisions of court rules/procedure.
11. Court reporter must make all reasonable efforts to avoid unnecessary interpretation of the court proceedings.
12. Court reporters shall preserve their notes, in a manner, that may be retrieved.
13. These notes shall be preserved for some time, unless otherwise, specified by law or rules of the court.
14. Court reporter shall avoid sensationalism.

15. Court reporter should not undertake freelance work when such work conflicts with his responsibilities as court reporter.
16. Court reporter should not engage in commercial activities that conflict with his responsibilities to the person he serves professionally.
17. Merits of subjudice matters should not be jeopardized by the court reporters in their eagerness to give judgment before the judgment.
18. Court reporters should endeavor at all levels to protect fundamental right of all the litigants to fair trial.
19. Media shall avoid conducting a media trial of any case taken up in any court of law.
20. No final report or opinionated comments shall be published or broadcast about a dispute subjudice in any court of law.
21. Remarks or observations made by honorable judges while hearing any case should be carefully referred to without mentioning the name of any particular judge.
22. Court reporter must be aware of the element of confidentiality and security of information revealed to them during court proceedings and having potential to cause public unrest and harm.
23. Court reporter shall disclose to an appropriate authority existing or past financial, business, professional, family or social relationship which might reasonably create an appearance of partiality
24. At all cost, court reporter must keep in view decorum of the court while performing his professional duties.