

PEOPLE WHO SHOULD NOT INTERPRET IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE / SEXUAL VIOLENCE CASES	<u>EXPLANATIONS AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES</u>
CHILDREN	Putting a child in the middle of a parental conflict creates incredible pressure on the child, who is likely to feel torn regarding with whom to side; the child may be fearful of the batterer and feel pressured to interpret in his favor; children may not have the necessary vocabulary to interpret legal information to the parent.
FAMILY MEMBER OF THE VICTIM	Despite the fact that a family member of the victim offers or volunteers to interpret, he or she may be blaming the victim for the abuse and not have a sufficient understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence to effectively provide support to the victim. The family member may also exaggerate the victim's testimony in order to support her, which can lead to discrediting the victim-witness on cross-examination. Additionally, the family member might not have the necessary vocabulary to interpret legal information to the victim.
FAMILY MEMBER OF THE PERPETRATOR / PRIMARY AGGRESSOR	A family member of the perpetrator / aggressor could intentionally volunteer to interpret in order to control what the victim says or manipulate the victim's words. A family member of the defendant might blame the victim for the abuse. The family member also not understand the dynamics of domestic violence to effectively provide support to the victim.
FRIEND OF THE FAMILY	As with family members, a friend who offers to interpret may wish to control what the victim says, reporting back to the family what the victim is saying or blaming the victim for abuse. A friend may not sufficiently understand the dynamics of domestic violence to effectively (through their role as an interpreter) provide support to the victim. He or she may also not have the necessary vocabulary to interpret legal information to the victim.
INTERPRETER USED BY THE PERPETRATOR / PRIMARY AGGRESSOR	A person who interprets for the batterer should not be allowed to interpret for the victim. This would create a significant risk of replicating the same dynamic of power and control that is used in a the perpetrator's battering behavior. It could also inhibit what the victim is willing to discuss with the service provider.

Source: Cultural Considerations in Domestic Violence cases. FVPF. 1999.

