

Interpreting during health assessments at TortureID

You have been invited to interpret for TortureID during a health assessment with a survivor of human rights abuses for TortureID.

Who are TortureID?

TortureID is a medical charity based in West Yorkshire. TortureID is a human rights organisation and is independent of the Home Office.

TortureID offers an assessment service to survivors of human rights abuses who have made a claim for asylum and are waiting for an initial decision from the Home Office on their claim. We offer a health assessment by an experienced doctor who is trained in assessing and documenting people who have experienced torture and/or other human rights abuses such as trafficking and domestic violence.

The doctor will undertake a 2.5 hour appointment (breaks will be arranged). The doctor will ask the client questions about their experiences prior to coming to the UK. They will undertake a physical examination so that they are able to examine any scars or injuries the client might have. They may also take photographs of injuries with the client's consent. You will not be present during the physical examination.

The purpose of the assessment is to document the physical and psychological impact of the abuse. After the assessment, the doctor will produce a report documenting any physical and/or psychological evidence of torture and/or severe ill-treatment identified at this assessment.

The doctor will spend some time briefing you before and debriefing you after the appointment. Please feel free to ask questions.

Your role as an interpreter

We ask that you follow the code of conduct below throughout the assessment.

The NRPSI state that the interpreter 'shall interpret truly and faithfully what is uttered, without adding, omitting or changing anything.'

- Please speak in the first person
- Simultaneous interpreting is not appropriate in a health assessment setting. The doctor will ensure that they and the client just speak for 1-2 sentences at a time to ensure accuracy
- Please reflect the tone, hesitations, emphasis and pauses within the client's narrative
- Interpreters must retain the confidentiality of clients at all times, and across all settings in which they have had contact with a client. This duty of confidentiality persists beyond the completion of the health assessment
- Interpreters should take all reasonable steps to ensure clear communication between both individuals, including intervention to prevent misunderstanding
- Please do not touch the client and maintain a safe physical distance
- If you feel distressed or emotional during the appointment, please ask for a short break
- If you notice that the client is distressed and you do not think the doctor is aware, please explain to the doctor
- If you have any concerns about the doctor's conduct during the assessment please inform the solicitor who will be able to take this up with the Safeguarding Lead at TortureID (Jude Boyles)

