

What You Can Expect From Your Court Reporter

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When you think of the court reporting profession, “speed” and “accuracy” most likely come to mind. While these are some of the key attributes of a court reporter, there are many other qualities that distinguish a mediocre court reporter from an exceptional one.

1. **Timeliness**

A court reporter should be punctual, always arriving on time and prepared to work. He or she will also be able to produce an accurate transcript in a timely manner, with a quick turnaround for delivery to you, the client.

2. **Preparedness**

Your court reporter will not only arrive on time to a deposition or trial, but will also arrive prepared and knowledgeable of the topic of the court proceeding. Court reporters cover cases of varying topics, from medical malpractice to contract disputes, which requires him or her to have the drive to continuously learn at an accelerated pace.

3. **Confidentiality**

Throughout a court reporter’s career, he or she will cover many types of legal proceedings that will often contain highly sensitive/confidential information. A court reporter is simply present at the trial to record what is said, without becoming a part of the proceeding or deposition.

4. **Neutrality**

During a deposition or trial, a court reporter must remain neutral and impartial to all parties involved. He or she is entrusted with producing an accurate record of what was said by both parties. No matter who is the employer of court reporter, he or she is not an agent of any party or witness. This goes a step farther to include the agency that employs the court reporter. The agency must remain neutral to both parties by acting and billing both fairly.

5. **Professionalism**

A court reporter should handle each and every case with the upmost respect and professionalism, representing their firm well and building lasting positive relationships. He or she should arrive to every proceeding in professional attire. Also, a court reporter should have superior customer service skills, as he or she will communicate with not only his or her client and parties to the case, but also potentially officials of the court.

6. **Passion**

Court reporting is not an easy profession; in fact, it is quite often said “a court reporter’s job is never done.” Only certain individuals have what it takes to do the

job and to do it well, and out of those people arise the best of the best—the passionate ones. An exceptional court reporter works long hours, produces transcript after transcript, sits for long hours without complaint, *but also loves doing it.*