

Middle Kingdom Silent Herald Code of Conduct

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The Silent Heralds should adhere to these standards to the best of their abilities.

CONFIDENTIALITY

As a Silent Herald you have two voices. First is the Voice of the Populace, and second is the Voice of the Crown. It is important to remember this distinction. You serve the Populace first.

When serving as a Silent Herald, use discretion. Please remember that information that you get because you are the herald for court is often SECRET until it is announced in court. Information that you receive as a Silent Herald that has to do with your Deaf or HoH "clients" may be of a medical nature and it is not appropriate to share that with others. If a deaf person tells you something in private, they may want to find a secluded place, because vision travels much farther than sound! When in doubt if the knowledge is public information or private, ask.

As deafness is sometimes considered a medical concern, please be aware that you cannot require that people sign their name or otherwise indicate that they are deaf on signup sheets, public information databases, or anything else that is available to the public. While you are a Silent Herald, you are an interpreter, and a professional.

PROFESSIONALISM

At least a basic knowledge of ASL or your regional sign language is highly encouraged before you begin doing Silent Heraldry, including the alphabet and numbers, and a few basic signs. As a Silent Herald, you are a volunteer. Any help that you can provide is welcomed and needed. Your knowledge of ASL may not be vast, and that is okay. If your vocabulary is shaky, and you will be interpreting one-on-one, it may be a good idea to have a pad of paper and pen handy, in case you need it to communicate clearly with the deaf person. It's much easier that fingerspelling everything. If you are signing a court, do your best to faithfully interpret the content and sentiment of the words of the Crown and the Vocal Herald.

CONDUCT

As a Silent Herald, your conduct should be sober and professional. You should demonstrate respect for all those around you. Remember that you represent the Crown, the SCA and the Deaf and HoH community. Conduct yourself in a manner appropriate to the situation. Please wear tasteful clothing that makes a good background for your signs and is not distracting.

A Silent Herald must use EXTREME discretion in accepting gifts for their services. Monetary gifts are prohibited.

RESPECT

Show respect to your consumers and your fellow heralds. Deal with disagreements in a pleasant manner. Respect the wishes of the Crown, and the wishes of the people you may be interpreting for.

KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

Silent Heralds are highly encouraged to foster and maintain interpreting competence and the stature of the profession through ongoing development of knowledge and skills.