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Why Can't *Family Members* Interpret For Patients?

Legal Requirement

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and ACA Section 1557 require meaningful language access.
- Using unqualified family members doesn't meet this standard.

Conflict of Interest

- Relatives may filter what they share to protect the patient or family.
- Critical details can get lost.

Accuracy Matters

- Medical terms are complex.
- Family members may skip, soften, or change words — leading to misdiagnosis or treatment errors.

Emotional Burden

- Asking children or spouses to interpret puts them in distressing, inappropriate roles.
- No one should have to translate life altering conversations for their loved ones.

Confidentiality & Ethics

- Sensitive information (e.g., reproductive health, mental health) may be withheld.
- Patients lose privacy and may not disclose fully.