

# Understanding Somali Culture



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# About Me

- Education

A.A, B.A, Rule 114 certified, court certification for Legal Interpreting (in progress)

- Wilder Research, Interpreter/Cultural Broker

- Volunteer

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# Understanding Somali Culture

- Proper greeting between Interpreter and Client (Cross) common.
- Common for client to ask interpreter for clarification or advice.
- Gender Roles
- Collective Culture
- Traditional Values

# Religious Considerations

- Most Somali's are Muslim (98%)
- Religion has influenced perspectives, clothing, ceremonies, secondary language etc.
- Interest

# Random Facts

- Name Mohamed's origin
- Having lots of children
- Female attire

# Suggestions

- For male/female interactions, wait until the other party greets you.
- Don't assume.
- Don't take things personally.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't understand something.
- It's always a good idea to state your expectations/ roles of the parties.
- Simplify when you can.
- Find out what is working for you, do that often.

# Suggestions continued

A few ways to phrase things;

- What we usually do is ...
- What has worked for us before is/are ...
- Other Interpreters' have told me that ...
- I know in your culture it is common to \_\_\_\_\_,  
but we need you to \_\_\_\_\_.
- ... What do you think?