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You may visit the Judiciary of Guam's  
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This informational brochure was produced in  
accordance with the Judiciary of Guam's Strategic  
Plan to improve access to our courts and the  
delivery of court services.

Judiciary of Guam-Strategic Plan 2007-2010  
Strategic Issue #1

The Judiciary of Guam does not discriminate on the  
basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex,  
disability, and age in the delivery of services (inclusive  
of educational programs or activities) to program  
participants and beneficiaries, employees, applicants  
and others.

# COURT INTERPRETER ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

Clerk's Office  
Courts & Ministerial Division



*One Law, Many Languages*



## CLERK OF COURT COURTS & MINISTERIAL DIVISION

In an effort to promote the accuracy and integrity of all judiciary proceedings and to preserve constitutional and fundamental principles of fairness and access to justice, the Judiciary of Guam is committed to ensuring maximum communication between the Judiciary and all members of our community with whom the Judiciary interacts by ensuring the highest quality of language assistance and services to persons of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) or who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH). The Court Interpreter Registry Program (CIRP) was established by the Judicial Council in 2013. It allows for the assignment and use of registered interpreters for indigent criminal defense work, courtroom proceedings, and juvenile proceedings when parental rights are implicated. Upon request, interpreters may also be called upon to service other types of court proceedings.

- American Sign Language (ASL)
- Cantonese
- Chamorro
- Chuukese
- Japanese
- Korean
- Kosraen
- Mandarin
- Palauan
- Pohnpeian
- Russian
- Satawalese
- Tagalog
- Ulithian
- Vietnamese
- Woleian
- Yapese

These language and sign services are provided in courtroom proceedings, probation services, attorney appointments, and client counseling. They are provided for witnesses or victims if needed. Services take place in and out of the courthouse. Interpreters for other languages may be available upon request.

Court interpreters, in their capacity as officers of the Court are bound to a code of professional conduct to ensure due process of the law. Interpreters interpret from the English language to the source language of the LEP and from the source language of the LEP back into the English language for the record. Interpretation is done in three ways: consecutive, simultaneous and by sight translation.

The Judiciary of Guam has become creative by not only continuing to provide language services to LEP defendants, but by making improvements to language services with decreased allotments. The current and impending population growth of our island, and increase in court cases and the composition of Guam's ethnic diversity have become so immense that in keeping up with emergent needs, it is critical that coordination and collaboration exist among government agencies.

The Judiciary of Guam seeks to improve interpreter services and administration by training court interpreters for LEPs. For information on court bilingual staff, please contact our Language Assistance Manager.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. What is an interpreter?**

**A.** An interpreter is a person who is fluent in both English and another language, their source language, and who listens to a communication in one language and orally converts it into another language while retaining the same meaning. ABA Standards for Language Access in Courts. July 6, 2012.

### **Q. What do court interpreters do?**

**A.** The role of the court interpreter is to place the person of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) or the person who is deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) in the same position as an English speaking person or the hearing person, in the legal setting. The court interpreter becomes a tool of justice. The judge acts as a guarantor of linguistic access and equality.

### **Q. When are court interpreters provided?**

**A.** Court interpreters provide interpreting services in and out of court for LEP's and those who are DHH. This includes defendants, witnesses, and victims in criminal court as well as in family and civil courts. They also work in and out of court settings for attorney appointments, probation intake, meetings, counseling appointments, depositions, and interviews.

### **Q. What kinds of cases utilize interpreter services?**

**A.** Registered interpreters can be found interpreting for indigent criminal defense work, courtroom proceedings, and juvenile proceedings when parental rights are implicated. Upon request, interpreters may also be called upon to service other types of court proceedings. Interpreters also assist with appointments with attorneys, probation services, and also for counseling services.

### **Q. Where do I direct questions, complaints or concerns regarding interpreter services?**

**A.** Any questions, complaints or concerns may be directed to the Language Assistance Manager.