

## Information about

# Language Access in Minnesota Courts



If you speak limited or no English and are a party to a case (litigant, defendant, witness, parent, or legal custodian of a juvenile) you have a right to a court-appointed interpreter during court at no cost.

*Minn. Stat. §§ 480.182*

The other side of this card gives information about the court interpreter's role and what the interpreter can and cannot discuss with you.

If you have a question or concern about court interpreting services, ask the Judge, speak to the Clerk of the Court where the case is being heard, or contact the Minnesota Court Interpreter Program.

### Contact us at:

Minnesota Court Interpreter Program  
State Court Administrator's Office  
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

(651) 297-5300

[MNCourtInterpreterProgram@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:MNCourtInterpreterProgram@courts.state.mn.us)

<http://mncourts.gov/Help-Topics/Court-Interpreter-Program.aspx>

*To provide justice through a system that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies.* - Minnesota Judicial Branch Mission

## Using a Court- Appointed Interpreter



Greetings, My name is *[Interpreter's name]*, and I am the *[language]* interpreter assigned to help you communicate with the court during your hearing today. Before we begin, I will explain my role as a court-appointed interpreter.

My role is to interpret everything said in court today to the closest meaning possible. Here is what I can do:

- I can orally translate any written order you receive in court today.
- I will maintain confidentiality and not discuss this case with anybody outside of the courts.

Here's what I cannot do:

- I cannot give you legal advice or my personal opinions.
- I cannot assist you in finding an attorney.
- I cannot have any private conversations with you.

Before we begin:

1. What questions do you have about my role or what I can and cannot do as a court interpreter? Please reply in words.
2. Have you been able to understand everything I have said so far?
3. Please tell me something about your country or culture so I can be sure I understand you.

Once the hearing has begun, please speak directly to the court not to me if you have questions or do not understand.

*Interpreter - Before proceeding with the hearing, relay to the court the person's questions or confirm there are no questions.*