

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

<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.