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You may visit the Judiciary of Guam's website at www.guamcourts.org

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.

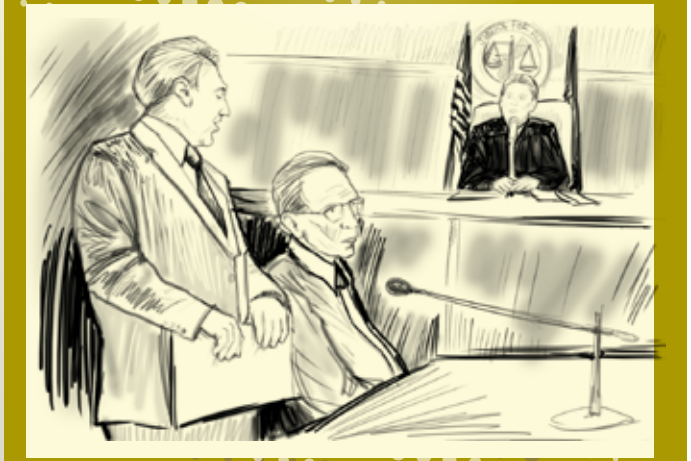
Judiciary of Guam-Strategic Plan 2007-2010
Strategic Issue #1

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.

Judiciary of Guam

COURT INTERPRETER ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

Clerk's Office
Courts & Ministerial Division



ISLAND OF GUAM
COURTS OF JUSTICE

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). These services ensure that all parties can understand proceedings and are able to participate in court programs and services in the following languages:

- 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 the courtrooms, probation intake counter, attorney appointments and client counseling. They are provided for witnesses or victims if needed. Services take place in an out of the courthouse. Interpreters for other languages may be available upon request.

Court interpreters are skilled professionals who fulfill an essential role in the administration of justice and in the protection of the 4th and 6th Amendment rights in criminal cases for persons who are of DHH and LEP status.

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.

Court interpreter services are not only for indigent defendants. They are utilized for victims and witnesses for various kinds of cases in and out of the courthouse. They are also utilized in personal injury cases, domestic cases, even in small claims cases.

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, an 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 LEP's. For information on court bilingual staff, please also contact our Language Assistance Manager, June B. Carino.

COURTS C&M MINISTERIAL

FAQ's 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 do interpreters service?

A. You may find an interpreter in every type of case in the Superior or Supreme Court. Cases range from personal injury cases, small claims, traffic, domestic violence, child support, sexual assault drug offenses, arson, and DWI cases. Interpreters also assist with appointments with attorneys, 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, June B. Carino.