



Frequently Asked Questions: Revisions to Interpreter Program Policies

Why is the judicial branch revising the Court Interpreter policies?

The State Court Administrator's Office regularly reviews policies and updates them as needed. The Court Interpreter Payment Policy has been revised 10 times since its origination in 2001. Each revision contains a Revision History with brief explanations of the changes. The 2023 revision simplifies the payment policy and addresses payment rates and interpreter travel time to ensure the Judicial Branch remains within the budget allocated by the State Legislature.

What is changing in Policy 513(a)?

The revised policy:

- Adjusts hourly rates for spoken language interpreters
- Removes the distinctions between in-person and remote assignments
- Amends interpreter travel payments
- Clarifies language to address IRMA requirements and functionality

What is the expected impact of the hourly rate changes?

Hourly rates for spoken-language interpreters on the roster will increase by up to 25%. The per-minute rate for remote interpreting assignments will be eliminated.

Example:

- A certified spoken language interpreter completing a 45-minute assignment today will be paid \$109 if they appeared remotely, and \$112.32 if they appeared on site. For the same assignment after January 8th the interpreter will be paid \$130 whether they are remote or on-site.

Why will there no longer be a higher payment rate for remote interpreting?

Prior to 2020, remote interpreting comprised fewer than 5% of interpreter events. As such, the pay rate was based on the rarity and brevity of remote interpretation. Now, however, remote interpretation is standard practice. The Branch, however, cannot sustain the pre-2020, higher per-minute remote interpretation rate of pay. The new policy does include a two-hour minimum payment for all interpreting assignments, whether remote or on-site. We will continue to collect and monitor data on all interpretation events.

Will people who need an interpreter still be provided the highest qualified interpreter?

Yes. Revisions to [Rule 8 of the General Rules of Practice for the District Court](#) were effective July 1, 2020. Rule 8.02 addresses the appointment of interpreters. References to "diligent efforts" were removed from the Rule and replaced with language that requires appointment of the most qualified, reasonably available interpreter. The payment policy has been updated to match the current language in Court



Frequently Asked Questions: Revisions to Interpreter Program Policies

Rule. These changes in how district courts identify and appoint the most qualified interpreter for court proceedings ensure courts are providing timely access to justice while making the best and most efficient use of available interpreter resources. The changes allow Scheduling Specialists, who are responsible for scheduling interpreters statewide, to fully optimize the most qualified and available interpreters.