



Minnesota Judicial Branch Policy

Policy Source: Minnesota Judicial Council
Policy Number: 513
Category: Statewide Court Programs
Title: Court Interpreter Program
Effective Date: February 15, 2008
Revision Date(s):
Supersedes:

Court Interpreter Program

I. POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Minnesota Judicial Branch, pursuant to M.S. 546.43, subd. 1 and 611.32, subd. 1, the Minnesota Constitution, and Minnesota Court Rules, to provide accurate interpretation of court proceedings so that non-English speakers and those disabled in communication are afforded equal access to justice.

A. In-Person Interpreting

Except as stated in paragraph B, interpreting services for court proceedings should be provided in person.

B. Remote Interpreting

1. Technology may be used to provide interpreter services from a remote location for:
 - a) Urgent or unexpected situations where no in-person staff or freelance interpreter is reasonably available; or
 - b) Non-emergent matters when it is more fiscally responsible to obtain the service by remote than by bringing in an in-person interpreter and the quality of the interpretation is not unduly compromised.
2. Remote interpreting should not be used in hearings where lengthy testimony is expected.
3. The court has discretion to determine whether remote interpreting is appropriate for:
 - a) Hearings of any type when the person who is disabled in communication speaks a rare or exotic language and an in-person interpreter is not reasonably available;
 - b) Hearings involving emergent matters where testimony is necessary.

II. IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY

Implementation of this policy shall be the responsibility of the State Court Administrator and the Chief Judges of the Judicial Districts.

III. EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS

The State Court Administrator will administer the Court Interpreter Program in accordance with the General Rules of Practice, Title I, Rule 8.

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