

How Do I Request an Interpreter?

If you are representing yourself and need a court interpreter, inform court staff as soon as possible. If your case is in Municipal Court, call the phone number found on the traffic ticket or court notice. If your case is in Superior Court, contact information is available at njcourts.com. Select “Interpreting Services” from the column on the left side of the page.

If you are represented, inform your lawyer if you need a court interpreter before your court date. Also inform your lawyer if you have any material that needs to be translated.

You must have any document you plan to submit to the court translated prior to coming into court.

Cancelling an Interpreter

It is **your** responsibility to notify the court if your case is resolved, cancelled or rescheduled. If you do not notify the court of a resolution, cancellation or rescheduling of an event, or if you do not attend a scheduled proceeding, you might be ordered to pay any fees the court paid for the cost of the interpreter.

Where Can I Go For Additional Information About the Courts?

Go to njcourts.com for more information about the New Jersey courts.

New Jersey Judiciary Administrative Office of the Courts

Stuart Rabner
Chief Justice

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Shelley R. Webster
Director, Office of Management and
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The Role of the Court Interpreter in the New Jersey Judiciary

New Jersey Courts

www.njcourts.com



Independence • Integrity
Fairness • Quality Service

The New Jersey Judiciary provides court interpreting services in many different languages.

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Do You Need a Court Interpreter?

The New Jersey Judiciary provides court interpreting services in many different languages. If you need an interpreter, notify the court or your lawyer as soon as possible.

What the Court Interpreter Will Do

The court interpreter *will* need to hear you speak in your native language and can ask you questions, such as where you are from or if you have ever used an interpreter before.

During a court proceeding, the court interpreter *will* help you to communicate with persons in the courtroom, including your lawyer, court staff, and the judge.

The court interpreter *will* interpret everything you say into English.

The court interpreter *will* interpret everything said in court into your native language.

The court interpreter *will* interpret everything that is said, without adding, omitting, or changing anything.

The court interpreter is bound by rules of confidentiality and will not repeat to anyone what you say privately to your lawyer.

What the Court Interpreter Cannot Do

The court interpreter *cannot* give you legal or any other advice.

The court interpreter *cannot* talk to you about your case.

The court interpreter *cannot* explain what words mean or what is happening in court.

The court interpreter *cannot* answer questions about what will happen in court.

The court interpreter *cannot* have private conversations with you or your family.

The court interpreter *cannot* wait until you feel you need interpretation. If you don't use the interpreter's services at all times, the interpreter might be excused from the proceeding.

What if I Don't Understand Something?

If you have questions, ask your lawyer or the judge or court staff; not the interpreter. The court interpreter will interpret your questions so that others can answer them.

How to Work with the Court Interpreter

You can always ask an interpreter to repeat what he or she has said, to speak louder, or to speak slower.

Speak directly to the person asking the question, not to the court interpreter.

Speak only in your native language.

Wait for the interpreter to finish speaking before you speak.

Respond to the court interpreter's hand signals to slow down or to stop talking so that he or she can interpret what you said.

Focus on the court interpreter, even if you understand some English.

Speak clearly and at a moderate pace. Remember to pause when your answers are long.

What if I Don't Understand the Court Interpreter?

Tell your lawyer or the judge if you don't understand the interpretation.