

SUGGESTED VOIR DIRE TO DETERMINE
QUALIFICATIONS OF UNREGISTERED INTERPRETERS

Knowledge of the Languages and General Education

1. How did you learn English?
2. Have you formally studied the English language in school or college? Please describe if so.
3. How did you learn [insert name of the other language to be interpreted]?
4. Have you formally studied the [insert name of the other language to be interpreted] language in school or college? Please describe if so.
5. What is the highest grade or degree you completed?

Interpreting and Translating Skills

6. What formal courses or training have you had in the professions of interpreting and translating?
7. What specific courses or training have you completed in legal or court interpreting and translating?
8. Have you passed any accreditation or certification exams for interpretation or translation? Please describe if so.
9. Are you a member in good standing of any professional associations of interpreters or translators? If so, please identify them.
10. How often do you attend meetings, conferences, and other gatherings of professional interpreters and translators?
11. Have you read and understood the Code of Professional Conduct for Interpreters, Transliterators, and Translators? Do you agree to abide by that code and advise the court when you cannot abide by any particular provisions of it?
12. Have you ever been disciplined for conduct that violates a Code of Professional Conduct approved by the New Jersey Supreme Court, another state judiciary, or an association of professional interpreters or translators?

13. About how many times have you interpreted in a Municipal, Superior, or Federal court?
14. About how many times have you interpreted for depositions?
15. About how many times have you interpreted for administrative tribunals in the executive branch, such as a judge of Workers Compensation, an Administrative Law judge, or Federal Immigration?
16. Have you ever interpreted in proceedings like the one we are about to have? If so, about how many times?

Conflicts of Interest

17. Are you a potential witness in this case?
18. Do you know or work for any of the lawyers, parties, or witnesses in this case?

Communicative Compatibility

19. Have you had an opportunity to speak with the person for whom you will be interpreting?
20. Did you have any difficulty understanding everything that person says?
21. Do you speak the same language?
22. Does that person have any dialectal or idiomatic peculiarities that you do not understand or which you cannot interpret into English?

Performance of Appropriate Interpreting Modes

23. Tell me what simultaneous and consecutive interpreting are and when you should use them while interpreting court proceedings.
24. Can you interpret simultaneously into [name of language] everything that is said in English during this proceeding without adding, deleting, or changing anything?
25. Can you interpret consecutively from English into [name of language] and from [name of language] into English everything that is said without adding, deleting, or changing anything?