

Hon. Teri Giordano, J.M.C.
February 16, 2023

Certification of Hon. Teri L. Giordano, J.M.C.

I am a part-time Municipal Court Judge appointed in CS Regional Municipal Court. I have served in that role for more than 3 years. I also serve as a backup and conflict judge throughout Vicinage 15 (Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem), including in Millville Municipal Court. I serve regularly as a conflict judge for Millville Municipal Court, meaning that I handle cases that the appointed Judge is precluded from hearing based on a conflict with an attorney or party in any particular matter.

In addition to individual conflict cases, I have covered court sessions in the Millville Municipal Court on numerous occasions. My records reflect I presided over five court sessions in fall 2022, specifically one fully in-person session with an on-site Spanish interpreter (on October 17, 2022) and four fully virtual sessions on October 19, November 16, November 23, and November 30, 2022.

I did not perceive any disparities in access or differences in scheduling during the court sessions I covered in Millville, including those in October and November 2022.

Defendants who required Spanish-language interpreting services received such services from the on-site interpreter on October 17, 2022. Defendants who required Spanish-language interpreting services received such services from Language Line on virtual court dates. In general, in Millville, at least 1 or 2 cases per session require Spanish-language interpreting during court sessions.

Various courts use different methods and practices for interpreting services based on volume and need as well as court format (ie, in person, virtual or hybrid). In some Courts full time interpreters are used, others part time or Language Line.

On or about November 30, 2022, Court Administrator Kimberly Hamlyn asked me about the logistics of use of interpreting services in other Municipal Courts where a hybrid (in person and virtual) format schedule was used.

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No other individuals brought any other concerns to my attention either before or after my sessions in Millville.

Municipal Court facilities vary substantially in Vicinage 15. Some have large court areas with private rooms for an interpreter. Others are much smaller without effective means for an interpreter to support a hybrid format.

I am providing this certification voluntarily and of my own free will. I have not been coerced by anyone to make this certification. I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I understand that if the foregoing statements are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Dated: February 16, 2023



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