

NOTICE TO THE BAR

Assessment of Interpreter Fees by the Court – Union County (Vicinage 12)

The Union Vicinage will assess interpreter fees against an attorney or pro se litigant when unnecessary interpreting costs are incurred by the court as set forth in Administrative Directive #3-04, which promulgated the Interpreting Standards as approved by the New Jersey Judicial Council. Interpreting Standard 1.4 provides that the judiciary may seek reimbursement when the Vicinage incurs an actual expense for interpreting services that could have been avoided but for the failure of a party or an attorney to give reasonable attention to the matter, or if the attorney or pro se litigant requests an interpreter but fails to use the interpreter during a court event. The Union Vicinage's enforcement of this policy will begin immediately.

The following, while not all-inclusive, are examples of situations in which interpreter fees can be assessed against the attorney or pro se litigant:

- Requesting an interpreter, then failing to appear for the event without legitimate reason;
- Failing to immediately cancel an interpreter as soon as the attorney or litigant knew the interpreter would no longer be needed;
- Settling a matter in advance of the scheduled court appearance for which an interpreter was requested, having the ability to give the court notice of the settlement at least 48 business hours before the scheduled event, but failing to do so;
- Failing to obtain an adjournment far enough in advance of the scheduled event for which an interpreter was requested so that the interpreter request could have been cancelled without cost to the court.

Matters involving pro se parties will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account whether they were clearly made aware in advance of the obligation to notify the court and considering their ability to pay.

Hon. Walter R. Barisonek
Assignment Judge

Dated: July 28, 2008

NOTE:

**Attorneys should check with the appropriate Division Interpreting Liaisons/designee for the exact information on the advance notice required to avoid unnecessary costs to the court on each particular case. Advance notice/cancellation fees vary (some cases may require less/more notice but generally the cancellation costs will increase with less advance notice to the courts).*