

October 5, 2023

Happy October! Welcome to the inaugural edition of a monthly communication I am going to start sending out. This will be a one stop shop for Language Access news, updates, recognitions, and the like. Since our team is spread out across the globe this is a way to keep us all connected and informed. Happy Reading! 😊

Upcoming state holidays: The Nebraska Judicial Branch will be closed for business in observance of the following holidays:

- October 9th Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples Day
- November 10th Veteran's Day
- November 23rd and 24th Thanksgiving
- December 25th Christmas
- January 1st New Year's Day

Stop by and say hello: You can usually find me in my office at the State Capitol in Lincoln where you're always welcome! Just please let me know if you're going to stop by so I can make sure I'm not in a meeting – I would hate to miss you! Here are some other locations you can find me in the month of October:

- October 11th Lancaster County Courthouse
- October 17th Douglas County Courthouse until 2pm
- October 20th Sarpy County Courthouse

Email addresses: From August to December, the Nebraska Judicial Branch is migrating from @nebraska.gov to @nejudicial.gov and Microsoft 365. When migrated, employees receive a new email address with automatic forwarding in place until December 31, 2023. Amiel and I have migrated and our new email addresses are:

- Amiel.Armijo@nejudicial.gov
- Kathleen.Valle@nejudicial.gov

Adrian, Olivia, and Kari have not yet migrated, but I will communicate when they do and when they have new email addresses. At this time, their email addresses remain the same:

- Adrian.Hinojosa@nebraska.gov
- Olivia.Brockman@nebraska.gov
- Kari.Corkle@nebraska.gov

Hall County Language Access Office: Due to remodeling the annex, the Language Access office will be behind a secure door going forward. The courtroom in the annex will be opening in the next week or so, allowing interpreters to access the office through annex Security. Until that time, interpreters can contact Security directly at 308-385-5200, extension 1158 who will be able to assist them in accessing the office. We understand that freelance interpreters are on-site daily providing services to the Nebraska Judicial Branch and need a place to leave their personal belongings, do Zoom hearings, and work on document translations.

Interpreter Statement:

Link to the updated Interpreter Statement with instructions on how to fill it out on the back! Access it [here](#)! Below is an example of a correctly filled out Interpreter Statement

STATEMENT FOR PAYMENT OF INTERPRETERS

For use in Nebraska State courts and probation offices

Questions? Contact 402-471-8854 or nsc.interpreters@nebraska.gov

Date	Name of Court or Probation Office	# of Non-English Speaker Served	Type of Case (Traffic, Criminal, Protection Order, Civil, etc.)	Authorizing Signature (Required for Payment)	Interpreting Time				Travel Time		
					Actual Time Start	Actual Time End	Actual Time Worked	Paid Time	Video / Phone or Travel from to	Total Mileage	Paid Travel Time
10/05/23	Cherry Co. DC	4	ARR	<i>Kathy Lewis</i>	09:00	10:00	1.0	2		262.00	4.24

Interpreting Time Paid 2 Hours @ (\$75 for Certified, \$60 for Registered, \$50 for Non-Certified) **\$ 150.00**
* 0.25 hour (15 minutes) increments for time over the 2-hour minimum.
Travel Time Paid 4.24 Hours @ (\$60 for Certified, \$48 for Registered, \$40 for Non-Certified) **\$ 254.40**
* Only if miles traveled for one day is over 50 miles. Conversion rate is 50 miles = 1 hour.
 * Difference between actual and paid interpreting time is deducted from paid travel time.
Mileage Paid 262 Miles @ .655 per mile **\$ 171.61**
* Only if miles traveled from starting point to the interpreting site is over 15 miles one way.
Total Amount Claimed **\$ 576.01**

For Court Admin Use	Mail to:
Total Pg _____	State Court Administrator
I _____	ATTN: Interpreter
T _____	PO Box 98910
M _____	Lincoln, NE 68509-8910
Total _____	

Interpreter Name Jane Doe Circle One: Certified Registered Non-Certified Other
Language (one language per statement) Spanish
Interpreter Payee # (Social Security # if don't know Payee #) 12345678 **Email** jane.doe@gmail.com **Phone** 123-456-7890
Mailing Address Check if new address 123 Main Street **City, State, Zip** Broken Bow, NE 68822
* Statements must be received by the Court Administrator by the 7th of each month for the same month processing. Please send original statements and keep a copy for your records.
 * Statements must be submitted for payment within 6 months of service.

Signature *Jane Doe*

Date 10/5/23

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Statement for Payment of Interpreters

This form can be found on <http://www.supremecourt.ne.gov>

Inclement Weather Plan: It's that time of the year whether we want to admit it or not- time to plan for inclement weather! While no system is perfect- especially when dealing with Mother Nature – I hope that the three-pronged approach below will help mitigate the impact to our court and probation stakeholders:

- Courts and Probation offices will add Language Access to their closure notification protocol
- Interpreters will text the appropriate member of the Ops Team as soon as they know they won't be able to make an interpreting commitment:
 - Adrian Hinojosa 402-250-0041
 - Olivia Brockman 402-580-3842
 - Kari Corkle 402-440-9989
 - Amiel Armijo 308-833-0594
- If the conditions are such that you need to travel up the day before or can't make it safely back home after an interpreting assignment, please work with the Ops Team to have the AOC reserve a hotel room for you. Keeping you safe is important to me!

Payment process update: I am grateful to the Finance Department for working with us on a process that will allow for the electronic submission of Interpreter Statements. Since interpreters appear remotely across the state, we have a tele-commuting Coordinator, and because 40% of our interpreters sit outside of Nebraska, the ability to submit Interpreter Statements electronically is a game changer! This will be a

bit of a process change for all of us, but I believe the benefits – not having to overnight your Statements, Statements arriving late due to USPS delivery times, etc., are worth it.

To receive payment by the 20th of the month, please follow the process as outlined below. Any step that you do not complete or that isn't accurate may delay payment.

- Fill out the Statement in its entirety and have the court or probation personnel you interpreted for sign off.
 - Follow the How to fill out an Interpreter Statement instructions.
 - If you appear remotely, have the court or probation personnel you interpreted for sign off by emailing you to confirm your attendance and the Actual Time End.
 - Attach this email confirmation to your Statement.
 - Ops Team members can sign for your block time.
- Sign your Interpreter Statement at the bottom and submit it to Kathleen by the 7th of the month.
 - Only your original signature will be accepted – no electronic signatures.
 - The Ops Team is not responsible for submitting Interpreter Statements.
- Submission options:
 - Via USPS mail:
State Court Administrator
ATTN: Interpreter
PO Box 98910
Lincoln, NE 68509-8910
 - Via email: Kathleen.Valle@nejudicial.gov
 - In-person: Drop off at the State Capitol, Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation, Room 1211
- If you haven't received compensation by the 20th, please contact Finance:
 - Until December 31st NSC.Finance@nejudicial.gov
 - Beginning January 1st Finance@nejudicial.gov

Professional Resource: The National Association of Judicial Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) has a [Calendar of Events](#) that lists upcoming conferences and webinars that may be of interest to you! Of special interest may be the NAJIT Academy: What would you do if..... webinar. This will count for 1 ethics CEU and is \$35 for NAJIT members.

Recognitions: Check out these great recognitions the Language Access Program received in September – what great ambassadors of our program you are!

✚ *I was hoping you could pass a huge thank you to the interpreter you sent to me yesterday afternoon. I don't remember her name (Ashley Villanueva), but she was in the Juvenile Probation Office at 2 pm with me yesterday. She had three people and a baby talking quickly and over each other, however, she handled the whole thing with grace and professionalism. I know you guys have been super overwhelmed and probably do not hear enough about how appreciated your services are. So thank you to you and all of your staff. I know I wouldn't function without you guys! - Megan McGowan, State Probation - 4J Probation Office*

✚ *Great work on the trial in Sarpy County, Frederique Sevet-Collier! - Judge Colin Palm, Sarpy County County Court*

- ✚ *I have kudos for Khalaf Hesso! He is responsive (so fast!) to emails and texts regarding assignments. He calls in new hearings right away. He is an excellent and clear communicator. He has been a pleasure to work with! - Monica Kellogg, Interim Hall County Coordinator*

- ✚ *Adrian works so hard and always goes above and beyond to make sure court moves smoothly!! We are very lucky. - Judge Kimberly Miller Pankonin, Douglas County District Court*

- ✚ *Kudos for Abukar Madimba for covering Sarpy and Dawson counties! – Olivia Brockman, Sarpy County Interpreter Coordinator*

- ✚ *Kudos for Nick Nersesian for jumping on Zoom for Sarpy County to cover a Warrant hearing with a 5-minute notice!! – Olivia Brockman, Sarpy County Interpreter Coordinator*

- ✚ *Kudos to Norma Olivas for coming on short notice to Hall County for a trial! – Amiel Armijo, Hall County Coordinator*

- ✚ *Abdi Elmi certified Somali interpreter has been very available for last minute prisoner needs in Hall County – thank you! – Amiel Armijo, Hall County Coordinator*

Did you know?

- September 30th was International Translation Day. This day celebrates the feast of St. Jerome, the Bible translator, who is considered the patron saint of translators. St. Jerome was a priest from North-eastern Italy, who is known mostly for his endeavor of translating most of the Bible into Latin from the Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. He also translated parts of the Hebrew Gospel into Greek. He was of Illyrian ancestry and his native tongue was the Illyrian dialect. He learned Latin in school and was fluent in Greek and Hebrew, which he picked up from his studies and travels. Jerome died near Bethlehem on 30 September 420.

- A third Latin American government is setting up an Omaha office to serve its citizens who have settled across Nebraska — a sign of continued cultural shifts and an unprecedented consular presence in the Cornhusker state. Read all about it [here](#).

If you have questions on any of this content, please feel free to reach out to me. Otherwise, we'll talk next month!