

July 17, 2024

Even though it's summer, I did a little spring cleaning! I no longer have a desk phone (402-471-8854) and will just use my state cell phone (402-219-1846). Please make sure to update my contact information in your phones/files accordingly.

Temporary delay in Interpreter Statement processing

Due to staffing changes in Finance, there will be a 1-week delay in Statement processing. This means that for Interpreter Statements submitted by the 7th of the month, Finance will ensure payment by the 27th instead of the 20th. This is expected to run through 12/31/24.



Where in the world is Kathleen Valle?

- August 14th Lancaster County Courthouse
- August 20th Douglas County Courthouse
- August 23rd Sarpy County Courthouse

Interpreter Certification Pathway

- Complete the [lending library survey](#) by July 31st to acquire resources you deem as essential.
- Our last Orientation for 2024 is quickly approaching! It will be held via Zoom from 8am-4pm on Thursday August 8th and Friday August 9th. [Registration form](#) due by July 25th.
- Do you have questions about Orientation or the Interpreter Certification Pathway in general? Do these 2 things:
 - Review the Interpreter Certification Pathway content on our webpage
 - Join the 30-minute informational session to learn more and ask questions
 - July 31st at 12:15pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Interpreter Rule amendments

On June 12th, the Nebraska Supreme Court adopted the amended Rules pertaining to interpreters. Want to know what they're all about? Click [HERE](#) to review them and then plan on attending a Zoom webinar on July 26th from 1pm-2pm. Can't make it on that date? Never fear, I will send out a recording. Whether you attend the webinar live or listen to the recording, you will be awarded 1.0 Professional Responsibility/Professional Studies/Interpreter Ethics CEUs! [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meal Reimbursement

EXCITING NEWS! Beginning July 1, 2024, the Nebraska Judicial Branch will provide meal reimbursement for in-state interpreters when an overnight stay is involved. The process to request and receive meal reimbursement:

- Language Access Director seeks approval for hotel accommodation and meal reimbursement from Deputy Administrator for Court Services.
- Interpreter submits a Non-Employee Payment Request with itemized receipts along with their monthly Interpreter Statement.
- Language Access Director approves meal reimbursement based on established criteria and the Deputy Administrator for Court Services' prior approval.
- Interpreter Statement and approval email are sent to Finance for processing.

For in-state interpreters to receive meal reimbursement, certain criteria must be met which is the same or similar to that of state employees:

- In state interpreters may be reimbursed for meals only when an overnight stay is involved.
- Only actual amounts paid for meals including tip may be claimed. Alcoholic beverages may not be claimed.
- Only meal expenses incurred on the days necessary to travel for the assignment and those incurred on the actual days of the assignment may be reimbursed.
 - If departure is before 6:30am, breakfast may be reimbursed.
 - Noon meals may be reimbursed if departure is at or before 11am or the return time is at or after 2pm.
 - If the return time is after 7pm, the evening meal may be reimbursed.
 - The time limitations do not include the time taken for the meal.
 - Meal expenses incurred in the city or town in which the interpreter's residence is located are not reimbursable.
- Reimbursements for meals will not exceed the [U.S. General Services Administration \(GSA\)](#) per diem limit.
- [Non-Employee Payment Request forms](#) are to be submitted monthly.
- AOCF requires itemized receipts (not credit card receipts) for meal expenses. Unsubstantiated meal expenses will not be reimbursed.
- Expenses should be itemized so that the nature, purpose, and necessity of each item are apparent. Expense vouchers should include the time and place of departure and the time of return to the residence in each instance. All items claimed for reimbursement for any one trip should be included on the same Non-Employee Payment Request form.

Professional Resources

- [25th annual NATI conference](#) will be held September 27th & 28th in Omaha
 - Early Bird Registration open now through just before midnight August 15th
 - I have submitted presentation proposals on:
 - The Role of interpreters in the Nebraska Judicial Branch
 - Ethics and Confidentiality in Court Interpretation
 - Training and Certification for Court Interpreters

Recognitions

- ✚ **Irma Watt & Sarah Sosa** did great during the jury trial! They really make a great team. – *Judge Johnson, Madison District Court*
- ✚ I had 11 interpreters scheduled on June 11, 2024, THANK YOU ALL (**Stacey Con, Ana Cardenas Pottebaum, Vladimir Bazan, Irma Watt, Maria Reutlinger, Belkin Gonzalez, Shelly Hodges, Alex Perez, Starbright Judson, Juana Diego and Judith Camacho**) for your continued support and dedication to providing language access. You are appreciated!! – *Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ The Judge thinks this morning went well, she liked **Ben Hammar** and said he did a great job! - *Liz Hussey, District Court Bailiff, Lancaster County*

- ✚ **Vladimir Bazan** hopped in to provide relief to trial interpreters during a particularly grueling trial. Thank you, Vlad! - *Kari Corkle, Justice Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ **Estella Abuelsheik** is GREAT! - *Cindy Johnson, County Courtroom Clerk, Dawson County Court*
- ✚ Just wanted to say thank you and let you know that **Perla Alarcon Flory** is an amazing interpreter. We had several complicated cases today and she is doing a wonderful job – big thank you to both of you. - *Marlene Vetick, Clerk of District Court Platte County*
- ✚ **Raul Escobar** spent ½ of his block translating urgent request defendant statements for Districts 5 and 6. Because of him, these LEP were able to communicate their thoughts in writing for the Judges’ consideration before their sentencing. Thank you, Raul, your dedication does not go unnoticed! - *Kari Corkle, Justice Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ Thank you **Keak Kierkok** for your quick responses to last minute hearings request in Sarpy County! - *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ I would like to thank the language access team for all their support while I was away. **Kari, Amiel, Olivia, and Kathleen** thank you so much. A special thank you to **Kelly Varguez** for taking my place, and to all the interpreters who stepped in to help and ensure everything ran smoothly. I truly appreciate all of you and the fantastic team we have!!! – *Adrian Hinojosa, Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ We have never had an issue with **Language Access** and always have our interpreter needs met! - *Candy Downey, Madison AD Probation Office Manager*
- ✚ **Vladimir Bazan** was also awesome and very professional! Thank you so much 😊 - *Joan Hansen, Clerk Magistrate and Clerk of the District Court, Deuel County*
- ✚ Good, I really like **Ben Hammar**! - *Cindy Johnson, County Courtroom Clerk, Dawson County Court*
- ✚ We appreciate **Perla Alarcon Flory’s** assistance and patience with us today! We couldn’t have done it without her! - *Susan Witulski Assistant Clerk Gage County*

Did you know?



Happy New Fiscal Year 2025!!
 The new fiscal year began on July 1st and will run through June 30th. A fiscal year is a 12 month period entities use for financial planning, budgeting, and accounting.