

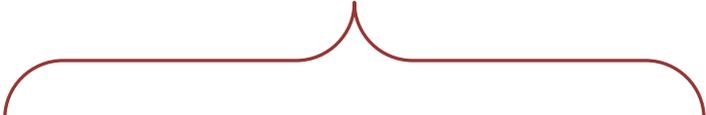
Nebraska Judicial Branch Language Access Plan 2014

A Strategic Agenda
for Language Access
in Nebraska State
Courts and Probation

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“...another ongoing challenge facing Nebraska courts is providing justice to the increasing number of individuals who speak little or no English. These individuals come before our courts as victims, witnesses, defendants, and parents of juveniles. Not only is it important that these individuals be heard, but it is equally important that judges, attorneys, and jury members understand the testimony and arguments of non-English speakers so that justice can be served.”

*~ Chief Justice Michael G. Heavican,
State of the Judiciary 2013*



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Introduction

The Nebraska Supreme Court recognizes that language access to court proceedings, probation services and court-ordered assistance, treatment, etc., may have a lasting and life-altering impact upon a limited English proficient (LEP) court user and his or her family, and that the Court must strive to provide access to Nebraska State Courts and Probation Services regardless of the language spoken by the court user. In order to facilitate that goal and provide uniform language access across the state of Nebraska, the Nebraska Supreme Court has authorized the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and Interpreter Advisory Committee (IAC) to produce a Language Access Plan. The plan will provide information upon which the Court can:

1. Identify the rules, policies, and resources upon which language access is provided.
2. Identify limited English proficient populations who may need assistance.
3. Develop a plan for meeting the needs of limited English proficient court users and provide information and support to judges, court staff, and probation staff.
4. Assess language access in the Nebraska Judicial System.
5. Provide an ongoing plan for language access.

1| Laws, Rules, Policies, and Resources

State statutory authority, Supreme Court Rules, and court resources are the cornerstones for language access in Nebraska State Courts and Probation Offices.

1.1 State Statutory Authority

Since at least 1973 Nebraska has recognized language access as necessary to providing justice. This is demonstrated by the laws enacted and amended over time by the Nebraska Legislature

See Appendix 1.

1.2 Nebraska Supreme Court Rules Relating to Interpreters in Court

In order to facilitate compliance with Nebraska statutory law and ensure consistency and uniformity in providing language access throughout the state’s judicial system, the Supreme Court adopted what is now codified as Neb. Ct. R. §§ 6-701 et seq., Rules on Interpreters in Courts.

See Appendix 2.

1.3 Interpreter Advisory Committee

In order to secure and protect the rights of persons who are unable to readily understand or communicate in the English language and who cannot be protected in legal proceedings unless qualified interpreters are provided, the Nebraska Supreme Court created the Interpreter Advisory Committee (IAC). The purpose of the Committee is to create, evaluate, and recommend statewide policies, rules, and regulations of court and probation interpreting throughout the state.

The IAC encourages interpreters, judges, probation officers, members of the legal profession, and other interested persons to provide information which will assist the Committee in the performance of its duty.

See Appendix 3.

1.4 Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters

Many persons who come before the courts could be partially or completely excluded from full participation in the proceedings due to limited English proficiency or a speech or hearing impairment. It is essential that the communication barriers be removed, as far as possible, so these persons are placed in the same position as similarly situated persons for whom there is no such barrier. As officers of the court, interpreters help ensure such persons

enjoy equal access to justice and ensure court proceedings and court ordered services function efficiently and effectively. Interpreters are highly skilled professionals who fulfill an essential role in the administration of justice.

See Appendix 4.

1.5 Court Interpreter Fee Schedule and Payment Policy

The fees and expenses of an interpreter shall be fixed in accordance with a fee schedule established by the Supreme Court and ordered paid by the judge before whom such proceeding takes place. Interpreters are paid out of the General Fund with funds appropriated to the Supreme Court for that purpose ([Neb. Rev. Stat. § 25-2406](#)).

See Appendix 5.

1.6 Court Interpreter Registry

Whenever an interpreter is required to be appointed by a court or probation office, the court or probation office will first attempt to appoint a certified court interpreter who is listed on the statewide registry of interpreters. Certified interpreters are currently available in Spanish, Mandarin-Chinese, Russian, and American Sign Language. Certified Spanish interpreters are also available to courts and probation offices remotely by phone or Cisco Jabber Videoconferencing on court days through the Nebraska Supreme Court's On-call Interpreter Program. Interpreters in available languages can also be reached telephonically by Language Line. Further descriptions of Language Line are available in 3.2.7, and on Appendix 17.

If the court or probation office has made diligent efforts to obtain a certified court interpreter as required and found none to be available, the court or probation office may appoint a registered non-certified court interpreter who is otherwise competent to interpret in the courts.

In languages other than Spanish or Sign, if the court or probation office has made diligent efforts to obtain a certified court interpreter or a registered court interpreter and found none to be available, the court or probation office may appoint a court interpreter who is otherwise competent to interpret in the courts.

The court or probation officer may determine that an interpreter is "otherwise competent" by one or more of the following:

1. An INTERVIEW allows the court to establish the language, educational, and professional background of the candidate and at the same time affords the interviewer the opportunity to assess the English proficiency of the candidate. Questions should be organized so that the content and complexity progresses from simple, casual chatting to a discussion of more linguistically and intellectually

complex issues. Questions that may be utilized during the interview process include the following:

- Level 1 questions: Inquire about name, address, current, and former occupation, former interpreting or translating experience, if any; language background and proficiency, educational background in the United States and in a foreign country, if applicable.
 - Level 2 questions: Inquire about travels outside the United States to encourage the discussion of economics or cultural differences.
 - Level 3 questions: Place candidate in a hypothetical courtroom situation in which a problem is posed that requires the candidate to state what they would do to remedy the situation.
 - Level 4 questions: Inquire about the candidate's understanding of the Nebraska Judicial System, and specific case types in which the interpreter may be expected to interpret.
2. A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH – a first person narrative on the candidate's personal background provides the court with insight into the candidate's sophistication in English and gives information about the candidate's personal background. *
 3. Assistance in determining the competence of a non-certified interpreter can be obtained from the Interpreter Coordinators. See Section 3.2.4. for additional information.
- * *Adopted from Fundamentals of Court Interpretation by Roseann Duenas Gonzalez, Victoria Vasquez, and Holly Mikkelson.*

If an interpreter, either on-site or remote, cannot be located after diligent efforts, the Court may continue the matter to allow additional time to locate an interpreter to provide service.

Each Court and Probation Office should designate an employee who is responsible for coordinating language assistance services within that court or probation office. In districts with an interpreter coordinator or contract interpreter, that person will coordinate language needs as assigned. That person should take the following steps to provide language assistance.

1. Use a bilingual employee for direct communication with the limited English proficient court-user or probation client in accordance with the restrictions discussed in Section 3.2.3. If a bilingual employee is not available in the language needed, the on-call interpreter may be used for Spanish, and Language line for all other languages.
2. Identify the language need of the individual.
3. Determine whether an on-site interpreter or remote interpreter is most appropriate for the assignment. Videoconferencing and telephonic interpreting are

recommended for simple hearings of brief duration, probation interviews, etc. On-site interpreting is recommended for evidentiary hearings, Presentence Investigations, and Predisposition Investigations if an interpreter is available. The Court or Probation Officer can determine whether remote access to the interpreter is appropriate for a given hearing or appointment.

4. Arrange for an interpreter, using the following:
 - a. Go to the Certified Interpreter Registry to locate a certified or provisionally certified interpreter in the needed language, or the on-call interpreter calendar for a remote certified Spanish interpreters.
<http://www.supremecourt.ne.gov/interpreters/registry>
 - b. If a Certified or provisionally certified interpreter is not available, a registered interpreter may be identified from the Interpreter Registry.
 - c. If neither a certified, provisionally certified, or registered interpreter is available for the language needed, an “other” interpreter may be contacted from the Interpreter Registry.
 - d. If no interpreters for the language needed are available on the online interpreter registry, a local interpreter can be contacted if they are determined to be otherwise competent, or the Interpreter Coordinators may be contacted to assist in locating an interpreter to meet the need of the court.

See Appendix 6.

Certified Court Interpreters (*for languages for which oral exams for certification are available*) have:

- Completed Court Interpreter Orientation;
- Passed the English Language Proficiency Written Exam, achieving 80% or better; and
- Passed the Oral Exam for Certification, achieving 70% or better on each of the three sections. Oral exams for certification are currently available in American Sign Language, Arabic, Bosnian Serbian Croatian, Cantonese, Chuukese, French, Haitian Creole, Hmong, Ilocano, Korean, Laotian, Mandarin, Marshallese, Polish, Portuguese, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Turkish, and Vietnamese.

Provisionally Certified Interpreters (*for languages for which oral exams for certification are not available*) have:

- Completed Court Interpreter Orientation;
- Passed the English Language Proficiency Written Exam, achieving 80% or better; and
- Demonstrated language proficiency and interpreter skills based upon education and experience as established by the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Registered Court Interpreters have:

- Completed Court Interpreter Orientation;
- Passed the English Language Proficiency Written Exam, achieving 80% or better; and
- Taken the Oral Exam and achieved 50% or better on each of the three sections.

Court Interpreters classified as “Other” have:

- Completed Court Interpreter Orientation;
- Passed the English Language Proficiency Written Exam, achieving 80% or better;
- Either has not taken the Oral Exam or did not achieve 50% or better on each of the three sections.
- Spanish and American Sign Language interpreters who are not certified or registered cannot be used for interpreting in Nebraska Courts and Probation Offices.

1.7 Continuing Education for Court Interpreters

Continuing education is required by the Nebraska Supreme Court to ensure certified, provisionally certified, and registered interpreters who serve in the Nebraska state courts:

- maintain and improve their interpreting skills;
- expand their vocabulary;
- understand the ethical requirements of interpreting in a legal setting; and
- are in compliance with Nebraska Supreme Court Rules in Chapter 6 (Trial Courts), Article 7 (Interpreters in Court), and the Nebraska Code of Professional Responsibility for Court Interpreters.

See Appendix 2 (§ 6-709)

2| Identifying Limited English Proficient (LEP) Communities Who Need Assistance

Providing access to people who speak limited or no English is dependent upon our ability to identify the language needs of our communities and our courts. The AOC will continue to review statistics, as available, from the U. S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, and Nebraska School Districts and will communicate with the Omaha Refugee Task Force and other organizations to help identify potential language needs in Nebraska courts.

See Appendix 7.

See Appendix 8.

3| Meeting the Needs of LEP Individuals

The Nebraska Supreme Court provides many resources to ensure language access for all users of the Nebraska's court and probation system.

3.1 Providing Education on Effective and Available Methods for Communicating with LEP Individuals

Information on interpreters and language access is included in New Employee Orientation and required information for new judges, court staff, and probation staff.

Webinars and live education are provided at least annually to all levels of judges and staff on interpreter issues, including:

- Communicating with LEP individuals.
- Using "I speak..." language identification guides and other ways to identify needed languages.
- Locating, identifying, and using Interpreters effectively.
- Using remote interpreters via video conferencing or telephone, including Language Line.

See Appendix 9.

3.2 Providing Language Assistance Services

3.2.1 Signage Notifying LEP Individuals of Interpretation Services

Signs were developed for posting in public areas of the courts and probation offices to alert LEP individuals of services available. Courts and probation offices should post these signs in public areas of their facilities.

See Appendix 10.

3.2.2 Language Identification Guide

Nebraska Courts and Probation Offices have "I Speak..." language identification guides which serve as a tool to identify the language of individuals they encounter who do not speak English.

See Appendix 11.

3.2.3 Bilingual Staff

The Nebraska Judicial Branch offers increased compensation for court and probation employees who are able to demonstrate their ability to communicate with court users in Spanish. Judy Beutler, Deputy State Court Administrator, and Steve

Rowoldt, Deputy Probation Administrator, manage the bilingual program in accordance with the Supreme Court Personnel Policies and Procedures.

The Nebraska Judicial Branch has tested 32 employees since the program's implementation in 2007. Eighteen of those employees have been approved for authorization and compensation as "bilingual employees."

Contact information for bilingual staff persons should be shared within the offices they are authorized to support.

Bilingual employees should be used for direct communication with LEP individuals (such as provide general information at front counter or on the phone) but shall not be used as a court interpreter or to interpret for preparation of presentence investigations, pre-disposition investigations, or any tests for which results will be submitted to the court unless approved by the AOC.

See Appendix 12.

See Appendix 13.

See Appendix 14.

3.2.4 Interpreters

Interpreter statements were analyzed by county, language, Interpreter certification, and number of individuals served to determine LEP needs. In the fiscal year 2011-2012, Nebraska court interpreters provided services in every judicial district, to over 20,000 individuals in 41 languages.

See Appendix 15.

3.2.5 Interpreter Coordinators

Interpreter Coordinators were hired in 2012 to provide Spanish-English interpreter services in metropolitan areas, assist rural courts and probation offices in locating interpreters for needed languages, and provide assistance in mentoring, training, and testing court interpreters.

See Appendix 16.

3.2.6 Sign Language Interpreters

Maureen Larsen, an ASL interpreter who is licensed for court interpreting (CI/CT, SC:L), arranges for sign interpreting needs within the Nebraska Judicial Branch. Ms. Larsen can be reached by phone (402-213-8018) or email (maureen.larsen@nebraska.gov).

3.2.7 Remote Interpreting

On-call interpreters and the Language Line are available to assist with remote interpreting. Remote interpreting is recommended for short proceedings, probation interviews, or exigent circumstances when an in-person interpreter is not available.

On-call interpreters provide services by videoconferencing (recommended) or by telephone where videoconferencing is not available, and should be used for Spanish interpreting needs when available. Contact information for the day's on-call interpreters is provided to all court and probation staff by email daily. The on-call interpreter calendar is also available on the Nebraska Judicial Branch website.

Language Line interpreters are available for telephonic interpreting only.

See Appendix 17.

See Appendix 18.

3.2.8 Translations

Interpreters should provide sight translations of documents that are not available in a LEP person's primary language.

Translation of vital documents and portions of the Nebraska Judicial Branch website have been made into Spanish, Vietnamese, and Arabic through grant funding.

Additional documents are being prioritized by the AOC and AOP and translated into Spanish by on-call interpreters. Funds for additional translation of vital documents into languages other than Spanish have not been identified at this time.

Translations of court forms are available on the Nebraska Judicial Branch website.

<http://www.supremecourt.ne.gov/forms>.

See Appendix 19.

3.2.9 Communication with LEP Communities

Public service presentations about the judicial branch and language access issues are being developed for schools, LEP groups, bar associations, community organizations, etc. by interpreters, IAC members, and staff.

3.2.10 Spanish Language Rights Advisement Video

A Spanish language narrated rights advisement video has been produced for use in Nebraska County Courts. DVDs have been distributed to each county court under the authority of the Nebraska Supreme Court Interpreter Advisory Committee. The video has also been uploaded to the Judicial Branch Website.

3.2.11 Tracking of Contacts with LEP Persons

Court contacts with LEP parties, etc. should be recorded on journal entries and orders, and entered on the JUSTICE case management system.

Probation contacts with LEP clients, victims, etc. should be recorded on the Probationer Information Worksheet (PIW) and entered on NPACS (Nebraska Probation Application for Community Safety).

Statistics of contacts with LEP parties within the Nebraska Judicial Branch are also collected by the AOC from interpreter statements submitted for payment following services.

4 | Assessing Language Access in Nebraska Courts

In order to assess strengths and identify areas of needed improvement in language access within the Nebraska Judicial Branch, a survey is being conducted and a complaint form was developed.

4.1 Needs Assessment Survey

With the assistance of the Minority Justice Committee, the Nebraska Judicial Branch is conducting a needs assessment to obtain stakeholder feedback on the quality and availability of language access services. Surveys of judges, court and probation staff, attorneys, and service providers were completed in the fall of 2012. Focus groups of court users for whom interpreters were provided will be conducted in the spring of 2013. Results will be published as available (summer of 2013).

4.2 Language Access Complaint Process

In order to empower individuals to share concerns about interpreters or a failure to appoint an interpreter in the Nebraska Judicial System and allow the courts and interpreters to respond and grow from this input, a complaint form is available in English and Spanish on the Nebraska Judicial Branch website.

A process for Investigation of complaints against interpreters and imposition of sanctions is provided under Nebraska Supreme Court Rule § 6-708.

If LEP individuals have a concern about a judge, instructions on how to file a judicial grievance and a suggested complaint form have been translated into Spanish.

See Appendix 20.

See Appendix 21.

5| Ongoing Plan for Language Access

The Nebraska Judicial Branch will continue to measure and to improve its progress in language access for the courts and probation by building upon the foundation and looking to the vision set out in this Language Access Plan.

5.1 Compile Statistics

The AOC will compile statistics of interpreters provided within the Nebraska Judicial System by language, qualifications, county, court type, and probation office. Statistics will be completed and posted on the Nebraska Judicial Branch website annually.

5.2 Identify Interpreters

The AOC will identify potential interpreters in needed languages and provide orientation, support, and testing toward certification or provisional certification.

5.3 Respond to Language Access Needs

The Nebraska Supreme Court will work to improve language access to the Nebraska Judicial Branch by responding to input, requests and concerns received from judges, staff, attorneys, service providers and court users. The Language Access Needs Assessment (4.1) conducted in cooperation with the Minority Justice Committee will be one tool in the Court's efforts to identify and eliminate language barriers to justice in Nebraska.

The Court's efforts to provide meaningful language access to the Nebraska Judicial System will continue to depend upon parameters set by Nebraska statutes and adequate funding provided to the Court by the Nebraska Legislature. The Court will continue to communicate its needs to the Legislature during budget hearings and other appropriate opportunities to promote adequate support for language access.

5.4 Continually Update Language Access Plan

The language access plan will be updated every five years in conjunction with updates to the U. S. Census. As resources allow, that update will include a formal survey of judges,

court staff, interpreters, LEP court users and LEP representative groups to determine language access needs and the Nebraska Judicial System’s progress in meeting those needs.

6| Acknowledgements

- Nebraska Legislature for its attention to the importance of language access in the courts and the funding to support it
- Interpreter Advisory Committee for its guidance, resources, and support
- Minority Justice Committee for its assistance with the Needs Assessment survey
- Consortium for Language Access in the Courts for its resources
- Department of Justice for input and support
- Nebraska Department of Education for statistics
- Nebraska’s court interpreters for dedication and hard work in meeting standards and providing needed services
- Nebraska State Courts for their efforts in meeting the goal of language access

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State Statutory Authority -- Nebraska Revised Statutes

Statutes Specific to Interpreters in Court Proceedings

25-2403. Interpreter; appointment.

In any proceeding the presiding judge shall appoint an interpreter to assist any person unable to communicate the English language for preparation and trial of his or her case.

25-2405. Interpreters; oath.

Every interpreter, except those certified under the rules of the Supreme Court and who have taken the prescribed oath of office, appointed pursuant to sections [25-2401](#) to [25-2407](#), before entering upon his or her duties as such, shall take an oath that he or she will, to the best of his or her skill and judgment, make a true interpretation to such person unable to communicate the English language of all the proceedings in a language which such person understands and that he or she will, in the English language, repeat the statements of such person to the court, jury, or officials before whom such proceeding takes place.

25-2406. Interpreters; fees and expenses.

The fees and expenses of an interpreter shall be fixed and ordered paid by the judge before whom such proceeding takes place, in accordance with a fee schedule established by the Supreme Court, and be paid out of the General Fund with funds appropriated to the Supreme Court for that purpose or from other funds, including grant money, made available to the Supreme Court for such purpose.

25-2407. Interpreters; qualifications.

Any person who serves as an interpreter for persons unable to communicate the English language in court proceedings or probation services as provided in subsection (6) of section [29-2259](#) shall meet the standards adopted by the Supreme Court. Such standards shall require that interpreters demonstrate the ability to interpret effectively, accurately, and impartially, both receptively and expressively, using any necessary special vocabulary. A person appointed to interpret for deaf and hard of hearing persons shall be a licensed interpreter as defined in section [20-151](#) or, if a licensed interpreter is unavailable, an interpreter licensed under the laws of another state.

Statutes Relating to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Interpreters in the Courts and Nebraska Probation Offices

20-151. Terms, defined.

For purposes of sections [20-150](#) to [20-159](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Appointing authority means the state agency or law enforcement personnel required to provide a licensed interpreter pursuant to sections [20-150](#) to [20-159](#);

(7) State agency means any state entity which receives appropriations from the Legislature and includes the Legislature, legislative committees, executive agencies, courts, and probation officials but does not include political subdivisions; and

20-153. Proceedings; interpreter provided; when.

(1) For any proceeding before an appointing authority including any court at which a deaf or hard of hearing person is subpoenaed or requested in writing to attend, the appointing authority shall obtain a licensed interpreter to interpret the proceedings to the deaf or hard of hearing person and to interpret his or her testimony or statements.

(2) Whenever any state agency uses the services of a qualified interpreter, as defined in federal law, to comply with sections 42 U.S.C. 12102, 12131, and 12132, and any regulations adopted thereunder, as such sections and regulations existed on July 20, 2002, the state agency shall obtain a licensed interpreter to act as a qualified interpreter for such purposes.

20-154. Appointment of additional interpreters.

If a licensed interpreter appointed under section [20-153](#) is not able to provide effective communication with a deaf or hard of hearing person, the appointing authority shall obtain another licensed interpreter. An oral interpreter shall be provided upon request of a deaf or hard of hearing person who chooses not to communicate in sign language. If an interpreter is unable to render a satisfactory interpretation, the appointing authority shall then obtain an intermediary interpreter to assist the appointed interpreter. The appointing authority shall ensure that any interpreter is properly situated so as to permit effective communication with the deaf or hard of hearing person and full participation of the deaf or hard of hearing person in the proceeding.

20-155.01. Interpreter; oath required.

In any proceeding in which a deaf or hard of hearing person is testifying under oath or affirmation, the interpreter shall take an oath or affirmation that he or she will make a true interpretation of the proceeding in an understandable manner to the best of his or her ability.

20-158. Interpreter; privilege applicable.

Whenever a deaf or hard of hearing person communicates through an interpreter under circumstances in which the communication would otherwise be privileged, the privilege shall apply to the interpreter as well.

20-159. Fees authorized.

A licensed interpreter appointed pursuant to sections [20-150](#) to [20-159](#) is entitled to a fee for professional services and other relevant expenses as approved by the governing body of the appointing authority. When the licensed interpreter is appointed by a court, the fee shall be paid out of the General Fund with funds appropriated to the Supreme Court for that

purpose or from funds, including grant money, made available to the Supreme Court for such purpose. When the licensed interpreter is appointed by an appointing authority other than a court, the fee shall be paid out of funds available to the governing body of the appointing authority.

Statutes Specific to Interpreters in Probation

29-2259. Probation administrator; office; salaries; expenses; office space; prepare budget; interpreter services.

(6) The cost of interpreter services for deaf and hard of hearing persons and for persons unable to communicate the English language shall be paid by the state with money appropriated to the Supreme Court for that purpose or from other funds, including grant money, made available to the Supreme Court for such purpose. Interpreter services shall include auxiliary aids for deaf and hard of hearing persons as defined in section [20-151](#) and interpreters to assist persons unable to communicate the English language as defined in section [25-2402](#). Interpreter services shall be provided under this section for the purposes of conducting a presentence investigation and for ongoing supervision by a probation officer of such persons placed on probation.

25-2407. Interpreters; qualifications.

Any person who serves as an interpreter for persons unable to communicate the English language in court proceedings or probation services as provided in subsection (6) of section [29-2259](#) shall meet the standards adopted by the Supreme Court. Such standards shall require that interpreters demonstrate the ability to interpret effectively, accurately, and impartially, both receptively and expressively, using any necessary special vocabulary. A person appointed to interpret for deaf and hard of hearing persons shall be a licensed interpreter as defined in section [20-151](#) or, if a licensed interpreter is unavailable, an interpreter licensed under the laws of another state.

Nebraska Supreme Court Rules Relating to Interpreters in Court

§ 6-701. Scope and effective date.

These rules become effective on September 20, 2000, and will, as amended, govern the use of interpreters in all courts of the State of Nebraska.

Scope and Effective Date amended September 17, 2003. Renumbered and codified as § 6-701, effective July 18, 2008.

§ 6-702. Interpreter register.

The State Court Administrator will publish and maintain a statewide register of interpreters which will consist of the following:

(A) Certified Court Interpreters: Court interpreters who have satisfied all certification requirements pursuant to [§ 6-705](#).

(B) Provisionally Certified Court Interpreters. Interpreters for languages other than those for which an oral examination is available through the Consortium for Language Access in the Court. These interpreters are provisionally certified by satisfying the requirements outlined in [§ 6-706](#) until such time an oral examination is developed.

(C) Registered Court Interpreters. Noncertified court interpreters who have not satisfied the requirements of [§ 6-705](#), but have completed an interpreter orientation program sponsored by the State Court Administrator and achieved a passing score on a written examination administered by the State Court Administrator, as well as achieved a score of 50 percent or better on each section of the oral legal interpreting examination administered or approved by the State Court Administrator.

(D) Other Court Interpreters. Non-certified court interpreters who have not satisfied the requirements of [§ 6-705](#) or [§ 6-706](#).

(E) Sign Language Court Interpreters. Sign language interpreters must be licensed, as required by [Neb. Rev. Stat. § 20-151](#) and must possess either a Level I, Level II, or Level III classification awarded by the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, as set forth below:

Level I – Interpreters with current Legal Specialist certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (SC:L).

Level II – Interpreters with current certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (CI/CT, CSC, NIC Master, NIC Advanced, NIC (basic), and Deaf interpreters certified by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf).

Level III - Interpreters with either a CI or CT certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, or Nebraska state certification of QAST 5/5 or 4/4 or a combination of both, or Nebraska licensed Intermediary Interpreters (Deaf Interpreters).

Diligent efforts must be made to obtain an interpreter with the highest level of certification before allowing an interpreter with a lower level of certification to interpret.

[Originally numbered as] Rule 1(A) – (D) amended September 17, 2003; [originally numbered as] Rule 1(D) amended January 4, 2007, effective July 1, 2007; [originally numbered as] Rule 1(B) – (D) amended June 25, 2008, effective July 1, 2008. Renumbered and codified as § 6-702, effective July 18, 2008; § 6-702 amended October 21, 2009; § 6-702(D) amended May 12, 2010; § 6-702 amended March 16, 2011.

§ 6-703. Appointment of interpreters.

(A) Use of Certified or Provisionally Certified Court Interpreter. Whenever an interpreter is required to be appointed by a court or probation office, the court or probation office shall first attempt to appoint a certified or provisionally certified court interpreter who is listed on the statewide register of interpreters if one is reasonably available.

(B) Use of Registered Court Interpreter on Statewide Register. If the court or probation office has made diligent efforts to obtain a certified or provisionally certified court interpreter as required by [§ 6-703\(A\)](#) and found none to be available, the court or probation office may appoint a registered court interpreter who is otherwise competent to interpret in the courts.

(C) Use of Other Court Interpreter. If the court or probation office has made diligent efforts to obtain a certified or provisionally certified court interpreter and a registered court interpreter, and found none to be available, the court or probation office may appoint a court interpreter who is otherwise competent to interpret in the courts. All arrangements for interpreters shall be made by authorized court or probation personnel. Hearings for parties who appear with their own interpreter may be continued pending the court's determination of language needs of the individual and the qualifications of the interpreter, if a certified, provisionally certified, or registered interpreter is not available. Provided, however, in proceedings in which a Spanish interpreter is utilized, only a certified or registered interpreter shall be allowed. In proceedings in which a sign interpreter is utilized, only an interpreter awarded a Level I or Level II classification by the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing shall be allowed.

(D) To determine whether a certified or registered interpreter is reasonably available, reasonable advance attempts must be made to arrange for the presence of a certified or provisionally certified interpreter prior to the use of a registered interpreter, and then, for the presence of a registered interpreter prior to the use of an interpreter who is not certified, provisionally certified, or registered.

(E) Number of Interpreters. For any proceeding that is scheduled for more than one-half day, two language interpreters shall be appointed. For any proceeding that is scheduled for more than one hour, two sign interpreters shall be appointed.

(F) Rebuttable Presumption. There is a rebuttable presumption that an interpreter must be appointed if an interpreter is requested or it is shown that the party is having difficulty in communicating.

(G) All interpreters shall be at least 19 years old, shall have read the Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters, shall take the Interpreter Oath and shall verify in writing that he/she has read and understands the Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters prior to interpreting in the Nebraska Courts or the Nebraska State Probation System.

(H) Individuals serving as interpreters for the State of Nebraska, pursuant to these rules, shall not be considered employees of the State of Nebraska.

See [Appendix 1](#) for Code and Interpreter Oath.

[Originally numbered as] Rule 2(B)–(D) amended September 17, 2003; [originally numbered as] Rule 2(D) moved to (G) on January 4, 2007, effective July 1, 2007; [originally numbered as] Rule 2(D)–(F) adopted January 4, 2007, effective July 1, 2007; [originally numbered as] Rule 2(B)–(D) and (G) amended June 25, 2008, effective July 1, 2008. Renumbered and codified as § 6-703, effective July 18, 2008; § 6-703(A)–(C) and (E)–(H) amended October 21, 2009; § 6-703(A)–(D) amended March 16, 2011; § 6-701(A)–(C) amended May 16, 2012, effective July 1, 2012.

§ 6-704. Examination for interpreter certification.

(A) Submission of Application. An individual who is desirous of being considered for certification as a certified, provisionally certified, or a registered interpreter as defined in these rules, in a particular language, must submit an application, on form(s) approved by the State Court Administrator, to the office of the State Court Administrator.

(B) Evaluation of Application. The State Court Administrator will evaluate the application and determine if the applicant meets the initial qualification requirements of [§§ 6-705](#), [6-706](#), or [6-707](#) (minimum age and absence of criminal convictions and/or pending charges based on criminal history record check). If initial qualification requirements are met, applicants will be required to take a 2-day orientation.

(C) Orientation for interpreters will include an introduction to Nebraska Courts and court proceedings, the ethics of a court interpreter, vocabulary, and the skills needed to assume the responsibilities of a court interpreter and meet the requirements for certification or provisional certification as outlined in [§§ 6-705](#) and [6-706](#). After completing orientation, applicants will be required to take a written examination.

(D) Written Examination. The written examination to qualify to take the oral examination of [§ 6-705\(D\)](#) or be considered for provisional certification pursuant to [§ 6-706\(F\)](#), shall require no fee and shall consist of three parts: general English language vocabulary, court-related terms and usage, and ethics and professional conduct. The written examination will be administered at such times and places as the State Court Administrator may designate. The State Court Administrator shall waive this requirement for any interpreter who has previously taken the oral interpreter competency examination of [§ 6-704\(E\)](#). If the applicant achieves a passing score (80 percent or higher) on the written examination, the applicant shall then be required to take an oral examination, if available for the interpreter's language, or provide documentation to support consideration for provisional certification.

(E) Oral Examination. Oral examinations in specific languages will consist of three components: sight interpretation, consecutive interpretation, and simultaneous interpretation. Such examinations will be administered at such times and places as the State Court Administrator may designate. Results of the oral certification examinations will be e-mailed or mailed by regular U.S. Mail to the applicant, per applicant's request.

(F) Confidentiality. All information relating to the examination is treated as confidential by the State Court Administrator and test administrators except that statistical information relating to the examinations and applicants may be released at the discretion of the State Court Administrator.

§ 6-704 adopted October 21, 2009; § 6-704(A)-(D) amended March 16, 2011.

§ 6-705. Certified court interpreter requirements.

A certified court interpreter must be able to interpret simultaneously and consecutively and provide sight translation from English to the language of the non-English-speaking person and from the language of that person into English. An interpreter will be eligible for certification upon establishing to the satisfaction of the State Court Administrator that he or she has:

(A) Reached the age of 19;

(B) Had no past convictions or pending criminal charges, either felony or misdemeanor, which are deemed by the Supreme Court to evidence moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. Disposition of criminal charges other than by acquittal or dismissal (e.g., pretrial diversion) may also be the basis for denial of certification;

(C) Completed the orientation approved by the State Court Administrator;

(D) Achieved a passing score (80 percent or higher) on a written examination administered by the State Court Administrator; and

(E) Achieved a passing score (70 percent or higher on each segment) on the oral certification examination (Consortium oral certification examination) administered or approved by the State Court Administrator as described in [§ 6-704\(E\)](#). If an interpreter shall have received a passing score of 70 percent on any of the three segments of a previous Consortium oral certification examination that was administered within the last 3 calendar years, the passing grade shall be honored and the applicant shall not be required to repeat that segment of a current examination.

(F) In addition, any interpreter possessing a Federal Court Certified Court Interpreter Certificate, a Court Interpreter Certification Certificate from any state which is a member of the National Center for State Court's Consortium for Language Access in the Courts, formerly known as the Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification, or a sign language Specialist Certificate Legal (SC:L) for interpreters that are fully certified (CI/CT, NIC Master or NIC Advanced, CSC, or CDI) or provisional legal certificate (CLIP) is recognized as a certified court interpreter.

(G) To maintain certified status, court interpreters must comply with continuing education requirements as outlined in [§ 6-709](#). Failure to complete recognized continuing education shall be grounds for removal of the interpreter's name from the list of Nebraska Certified Court Interpreters.

[Originally numbered as] Rule 3(C)–(E) amended September 17, 2003. Renumbered and codified as § 6-704, effective July 18, 2008; § 6-704 renumbered to § 6-705 and amended October 21, 2009; § 6-705(G) adopted May 16, 2012, effective July 1, 2012.

§ 6-706. Provisionally certified court interpreter requirements.

In languages for which no oral certification examination is available, an applicant may be provisionally certified upon establishing to the satisfaction of the State Court Administrator that he or she has:

(A) Reached the age of 19;

(B) Filed with the State Court Administrator a resume, a completed questionnaire regarding his or her experience and work education and work history, and permission for the State Court Administrator to do a criminal records check on the applicant;

(C) Had no past convictions or pending criminal charges, either felony or misdemeanor, which are deemed by the Supreme Court to evidence moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. Dispositions of criminal charges other than by acquittal or dismissal (e.g., pretrial diversion) may also be the basis for denial of certification;

(D) Completed the orientation approved by the State Court Administrator;

(E) Achieved a passing score (80 percent or higher) on a written examination administered by the State Court Administrator;

(F) In addition, provisional certification requires that the applicant demonstrate both written and oral proficiency in both English and the foreign language by the following:

(1) Proof of the applicant's English written proficiency shall be demonstrated by one or more of the following:

(a) A degree from an accredited college or university in a country where English is the official language; or

(b) A minimum of 1 year of completed graduate coursework at an accredited university in a country where English is the official language; or

(c) A score of 400 in the Toefel paper-based language test; a score of 97 in the Toefel PC-based language test; or a score of 32 in the Toefel Internet-based language test; or

(d) Publication in English where the candidate is the sole or main author; or

(e) Accreditation from the ATA American Translators Association in translation into English.

(2) Proof of the applicant's English oral proficiency shall be demonstrated by one or more of the following:

- (a) A minimum of 2 years of teaching experience at the college level (undergraduate or graduate) using English as the language of instruction; or
 - (b) A minimum of 2 years of other professional work experience in the United States or in a country where the official language is English.
- (3) Proof of written proficiency in the foreign language(s) as demonstrated by the following:
- (a) A minimum 4-year college degree from the United States or an equivalent higher education degree from another country where instruction is conducted in that language; or
 - (b) Publication in the foreign language in which the applicant is the sole or main author; or
 - (c) Accreditation from the ATA American Translators Association in translation into the foreign language.
- (4) Proof of oral proficiency in the foreign language as demonstrated by the following:
- (a) A minimum of 2 years of teaching at the college level (undergraduate or graduate) using the language as the language of instruction; or
 - (b) A minimum of 2 years of other professional experience in a country where the language is the official language; or
 - (c) A degree from an internationally recognized university or academic institution, ideally in, but not limited to, translation and interpretation with concentration in the foreign language.
- (5) Three letters of reference to attest to the applicant's interpreting and professional experience within the past 2 years.
- (6) The State Court Administrator shall have the responsibility of determining whether an applicant's degree, coursework, teaching experience, and/or professional work experience meet the requirements of this rule.
- (7) Upon the applicant's meeting the above requirements, he or she will be assigned to a mentor program developed and approved by the State Court Administrator. Upon completion of the mentor program and a favorable report from the assigned mentor, the applicant shall be considered a provisionally certified interpreter.
- (G) Continuing Education and Reassessment of Provisionally Certified Status. To maintain provisionally certified status, court interpreters must comply with continuing education requirements as outlined in [§ 6-709](#). Failure to complete recognized continuing education shall be grounds for removal of the interpreter's name from the list of Nebraska Provisionally Certified Court Interpreters.
- (H) Provisional certification shall be recognized by the State of Nebraska until such time as an oral examination is available from the Consortium for Language Access in the Courts. The provisional certification will be withdrawn 6 months after an oral test is made available in the interpreter's target language. Provisionally certified interpreters who are not able to pass the consortium oral examination will be considered registered interpreters.

§ 6-706 adopted March 16, 2011; § 6-706(G) amended May 16, 2012, effective July 1, 2012.

§ 6-707. Registered court interpreter requirements.

(A) A registered court interpreter must be able to interpret simultaneously and consecutively and provide sight translation from English to the language of the non-English-speaking person and from the language of that person into English, only when a certified interpreter is not available. See [§ 6-703\(B\)](#).

(B) An interpreter will be eligible for registration as a registered interpreter upon establishing to the satisfaction of the State Court Administrator that he or she has:

(1) Reached the age of 19;

(2) Had no past convictions or pending criminal charges, either felony or misdemeanor, which are deemed by the Supreme Court to evidence moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. Dispositions of criminal charges other than by acquittal or dismissal (e.g. pretrial diversion) may also be the basis for denial of certification;

(3) Completed the orientation approved by the State Court Administrator;

(4) Achieved a passing score (80 percent or higher) on a written examination administered by the State Court Administrator; and

(5) Achieved a score of 50 percent or better on the oral certification examination administered or approved by the State Court Administrator as described in [§ 6-704\(E\)](#). Registered interpreters in languages for which the oral certification is not available will be retained upon the list of registered interpreters only upon submission to the State Court Administrator some other measure of language competence (e.g., a passing score on an oral proficiency exam) acceptable by the State Court Administrator.

(C) To maintain registered status, court interpreters must comply with continuing education requirements as outlined in [§ 6-709](#). Failure to complete recognized continuing education shall be grounds for removal of the interpreter's name from the list of Nebraska Registered Court Interpreters.

[Originally numbered as] Rule 5(B) amended September 17, 2003. Renumbered and codified as § 6-706, effective July 18, 2008; § 6-706 amended October 21, 2009; § 6-706 renumbered to § 6-707 March 16, 2011; § 6-707(C) adopted May 16, 2012, effective July 1, 2012.

§ 6-708. Investigation of complaints and imposition of sanctions.

(A) Grounds for Imposition of Sanctions. Any of the following may be grounds for imposition of sanctions against a certified or registered interpreter:

(1) Unprofessional or unethical conduct that violates the Code of Professional Responsibility (see [Appendix 1](#));

(2) Conviction of a criminal charge, either misdemeanor or felony, which is deemed by the Supreme Court to evidence moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or

misrepresentation. Dispositions of criminal charges other than by acquittal or dismissal (e.g., pretrial diversion) may also constitute grounds for suspension or revocation; and

(3) Incompetence as an interpreter.

(B) Investigation and Notification of Grounds for Imposition of Sanctions. Upon receipt by the State Court Administrator of a complaint in writing against a certified or registered interpreter, or upon the initiation by the office of the State Court Administrator itself of a complaint, such complaint shall be investigated, to determine if the complaint warrants formal action. In any case where formal action is deemed necessary, written notice of the complaint shall be sent by certified mail to the interpreter, and that interpreter shall have 15 days to file a written response with the Office of the State Court Administrator. Upon receipt and review of any such written response, the State Court Administrator may take any of the following actions:

(1) immediately suspend the certification of the interpreter and schedule a hearing;

(2) dismiss the complaint; or

(3) schedule a hearing to consider the complaint formally.

(C) Scheduling of Formal Hearing. If the State Court Administrator elects to schedule a formal hearing, such hearing shall be held within 30 days of the receipt by the State Court Administrator of the written response. A panel of three individuals shall be responsible for the conduct of the formal hearing: one of the judge members of the Interpreter Advisory Committee shall preside over the hearing, together with two interpreters from the Interpreter Advisory Committee to be appointed by the judge presiding over the hearing. If requested, any individual whose attendance is sought at the formal hearing shall be permitted to appear telephonically and/or by video connection. Notice of the time and place of the formal hearing shall be given by certified mail to the interpreter under complaint, at least 15 days prior thereto.

(D) Conduct of Formal Hearing. The hearing panel shall receive such information and/or documentation as it sees fit, including, if deemed appropriate by the panel, the taking of testimony. At the conclusion of the hearing, the panel may take any such action as it determines appropriate, including the immediate suspension or revocation of the interpreter under complaint, the dismissal of the complaint, or the imposition of any of the other sanctions described in [§ 6-708\(E\)](#) below. The rules of evidence do not apply to these hearings.

(E) Sanctions. If sufficient cause exists, the State Court Administrator may impose one or more of the following sanctions:

(1) Issue a written reprimand;

(2) Specify corrective action with which the interpreter must comply in order to remain on the statewide register of interpreters, including the completion of educational courses and/or re-taking one or more parts of the legal interpreting competency examination;

(3) Suspend the interpreter from serving as an interpreter in the Nebraska courts for a specified period of time, or until corrective action is completed; and

(4) Revoke the standing of and permanently prohibit the interpreter from serving as an interpreter in Nebraska courts.

(F) No interpreter who has been suspended or revoked shall be utilized as an interpreter in any judicial proceeding in the State of Nebraska, nor shall such interpreter be entitled to any compensation from the State Court Administrator's Office, during his or her suspension or revocation.

(G) Complaints made against a sign language interpreter shall be processed pursuant to the procedure set forth in Rules and Regulations Relating to Sign Language Interpreters adopted by the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

§ 6-707 adopted October 21, 2009; § 6-707 renumbered to § 6-708 March 16, 2011.

§ 6-709. Continuing education requirements.

Continuing education is required by the Nebraska Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to ensure that certified, provisionally certified, and registered interpreters who serve in the Nebraska state courts maintain and improve their interpreting skills and expand their vocabulary. Additionally, continuing education is required to ensure that certified interpreters are in compliance with Local Rules in Chapter 6 (Trial Courts), Article 7 (Interpreters in Court), and the Nebraska Code of Professional Responsibility for Court Interpreters ([Appendix 1](#)).

As of July 1, 2012, these requirements apply to all interpreters who are certified, provisionally certified, or registered court interpreters in the State of Nebraska who wish to interpret in the Nebraska state courts. Meeting these requirements is a condition for continued certification, provisional certification, or registered status of court interpreters.

(A) CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT refers to educational activities in which the interpreter engages after successfully passing the certification examination, being provisionally certified, or having registered status.

Every certified, provisionally certified, or registered interpreter shall complete and report ten (10) credit hours of approved continuing education offered or accredited by the AOC during each two-year reporting period. At least four (4) continuing education hours must be earned at an AOC-approved ethics and skills building workshop. The two-year reporting period commences as set forth below at [§ 6-709\(C\)](#).

(B) APPROVED/ACCREDITED CONTINUING EDUCATION shall be earned in participatory activities, i.e., a course, conference, workshop, lecture, or other activity, at which attendance is monitored and verified. Participatory continuing education activities may include courses offered at accredited institutions of higher learning or conferences or workshops sponsored by accredited professional organizations.

Continuing Education credits may be obtained through programs, conferences, and workshops endorsed and credited for continuing education by the Nebraska or other State or Federal Administrative Offices of the Courts, the Nebraska Association for Translators & Interpreters (NATI), the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT), the American Translators Association, and the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), along with educational programs offered by colleges and/or universities, or training programs offered by other Consortium member states.

Continuing education credit granted shall be for the actual number granted by accredited programs, conferences, workshops, or training programs. Auditing an academic college level language course for continuing education credit or taking same for academic credit is permitted with education credits under this rule allocated as follows: one academic quarter unit shall be deemed equivalent to 10 continuing education credits and one academic semester unit shall be deemed equivalent to 15 continuing education credits.

Interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing must complete the RID required 8.0 continuing education credits (80 hours) in a cycle (4 years). These eight continuing education credits are divided into two Content Areas: Professional Studies and General Studies. Participants must work with a RID-Approved Sponsor to earn continuing education credits.

Continuing education credit will be awarded only after completion of the entire activity. Partial attendance does not qualify for continuing education credit. Reasonable absences are allowed for academic courses. The academic institution's attendance requirements for credit must be met to be eligible for continuing education credit. If an educational activity spans two compliance periods, credit will be earned in the period in which the activity is completed. No continuing education hours may be carried over from one compliance period to the next.

To receive continuing education credit for a particular educational activity, other than those listed above, the interpreter may request credit by submitting information regarding the activity (e.g., description of curriculum, agenda of conference, etc.) to the AOC, and must receive approval prior to attendance at the activity. This information shall be submitted in advance of the program to ensure approval. Retroactive approval may be sought for good cause.

Any interpreter who wishes to receive continuing education credit must be able to show proof of having taken the course or attended the conference or workshop (e.g., an official transcript from the university or college, or a receipt and/or certificate of completion from the conference or workshop).

(C) COMPLIANCE. Each certified, provisionally certified, or registered interpreter is required to submit a completed Continuing Education Compliance Form ([Appendix 2](#)) to the AOC every two years. The 24-month time period begins on January 1 following the date an interpreter becomes certified and is awarded the Nebraska State Certified Court Interpreter Certificate. The AOC will make available, by the interpreter's request or online, the approved compliance form to be submitted.

(D) NONCOMPLIANCE with the continuing education requirement shall result in the interpreter's name being removed from the list of Nebraska Certified Court Interpreters, Nebraska Provisionally Certified Court Interpreters, or the Nebraska Registered Court Interpreters. Interpreters whose names have been removed from the lists for noncompliance with the continuing education requirement shall not be given interpreting assignments with the courts. Interpreters will not be added back onto the list until the continuing education requirement is met.

§ 6-709 adopted May 16, 2012, effective July 1, 2012.

Interpreter Advisory Committee

In order to secure and protect the rights of persons who are unable to readily understand or communicate in the English language and cannot be protected in legal proceedings unless qualified interpreters are provided, the Nebraska Supreme Court creates the Interpreter Advisory Committee. The purpose of the committee shall be to create, evaluate and recommend statewide policies, rules and regulations of court and probation interpreting throughout the state.

The Interpreter Advisory Committee will address the following:

- Evaluate and monitor the orientation, skills training, and continuing education programs for all language court interpreters.
- Evaluate and monitor the education programs for judges and court staff regarding their use of interpreters.
- Evaluate and monitor the criteria and standards for testing and certification of court interpreters.
- Evaluate and monitor the criteria and standards for appointment of interpreters by the courts and probation offices.
- Evaluate and monitor the transcription of court documents, probation documents and video tapes of interpreted materials.
- Evaluate and make recommendations to the Nebraska Supreme Court for any amendments to the Interpreter Fee Schedule and Payment Policy.
- Evaluate the need and locations for on call interpreters, contract interpreters and employee interpreters.
- Create and evaluate a policy for bi-lingual employees who perform interpreter duties as a function of their employment.
- Evaluate and monitor the cost of the interpreting program and recommend potential measures of cost savings.
- Evaluate and make recommendations to the Nebraska Supreme Court for any amendments to the Supreme Court Rules Relating to Court Interpreters and Code of Professional Responsibility for Court Interpreters.
- Review actions taken under the provisions of rule 5, Rules Relating to Court Interpreters, relating to the discipline of interpreters.
- Take any further action that the committee determines appropriate for the improvement and betterment of the State Court Interpreting Program.

The Interpreter Advisory Committee shall encourage interpreters, judges, probation officers, members of the legal profession and other interested persons to provide information which will assist the Committee in the performance of their duty.

<u>Member</u>	<u>Representation</u>	<u>App. Date</u>
Justice William B. Cassel (ex-officio)	Supreme Court	08-30-12
Judge Paul Merritt	District Court	09-14-05
Judge William Wright	District Court	06-10-09
Judge Christopher Kelly	Juvenile Court	11-17-10
Judge Patrick McDermott	County Court	09-14-05
Judge Craig McDermott	County Court	03-16-11
Judge Randin Roland	County Court	05-05-10
Judge John Hoffert	Workers' Compensation Court	11-16-05
Dori Kroeger	District Court Clerk	10-27-10
Ellen Faltys	Clerk Magistrate	09-14-05
Bob Denton	Chief Probation Officer	10-27-10
Robert Roos	Interpreter	09-14-05
Constanza Meier	Interpreter	12-10-08
Victoria Welles	Interpreter	01-31-13
Maureen Larsen	Deaf/Hard of Hearing Interpreter	11-16-05

Dr. Mary Willis	UNL Associate Professor of Anthropology	12-10-08
Jeck-Jenard Navarrete	Office of the Federal Public Defender Interpreter	09-14-05
Janice Walker	State Court Administrator	09-14-05
Judy Beutler (ex-officio)	State Court Administration	09-14-05
Sheryl Connolly (ex-officio)	State Court Administration	06-01-07
Ellen Brokofsky (ex-officio)	Probation Administrator	10-01-05
Liz Neeley (ex-officio)	Project Director of Minority and Justice Implementation Committee	02-15-06
Raul Escobar (ex-officio)	Court Interpreter Coordinator	01-31-13
Adriana Hinojosa (ex-officio)	Court Interpreter Coordinator	01-31-13

Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters

Preamble.

Many persons who come before the courts are partially or completely excluded from full participation in the proceedings due to limited English proficiency or a speech or hearing impairment. It is essential that the resulting communication barrier be removed, as far as possible, so that these persons are placed in the same position as similarly situated persons for whom there is no such barrier. As officers of the court, interpreters help ensure that such persons may enjoy equal access to justice and that court proceedings and court support services function efficiently and effectively. Interpreters are highly skilled professionals who fulfill an essential role in the administration of justice.

Applicability.

This Code shall guide and be binding upon all persons, agencies, and organizations who administer, supervise use of, or deliver interpreting services to the judiciary.

Canon 1. Accuracy and completeness.

Interpreters shall render a complete and accurate interpretation or sight translation, without altering, omitting, or adding anything to what is stated or written, and without explanation.

Canon 2. Representation of qualifications.

Interpreters shall accurately and completely represent what their training and pertinent experience is and any certification they may have.

Canon 3. Impartiality and avoidance of conflict of interest.

Interpreters shall be impartial and unbiased and shall refrain from conduct that may give an appearance of bias. Interpreters shall disclose any real or perceived conflict of interest.

Canon 4. Professional demeanor.

Interpreters shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the formality and civility of the court and shall draw as little attention to themselves as possible.

Canon 5. Confidentiality.

Interpreters shall keep confidential all privileged and other confidential information.

Canon 6. Restriction of public comment.

Interpreters shall not publicly discuss, report, or offer an opinion concerning a matter in which they are or have been engaged, even when that information is not privileged or required by law to be confidential.

Canon 7. Scope of practice.

Interpreters shall limit themselves to interpreting or translating, and shall not give legal advice, express personal opinions to individuals for whom they are interpreting, or engage in any other

activities which may be construed to constitute a service other than interpreting or translating while serving as an interpreter.

Canon 8. Assessing and reporting inabilities to perform.

Interpreters shall assess at all times their ability to deliver their services. When interpreters have any reservation about their ability to satisfy an assignment completely, they shall immediately convey that reservation to the appropriate judicial authority.

Canon 9. Duty to report ethical violations.

Interpreters shall report to the proper judicial authority any effort to encourage a lack of compliance with any law, any provision to this Code, or any other official policy governing court interpreting and legal translating.

Canon 10. Professional development.

Interpreters shall strive to continually improve their skills and knowledge and advance the profession through activities such as professional training and education, and interactions with colleagues and specialists in related fields.

INTERPRETER OATH

I, _____, swear or affirm that I will, to the best of my skill and judgment, after my appointment as interpreter, make a true _____ interpretation of
(Language)
all court proceedings, probation activities, or any other proceeding into a language which the party understands and that I will in the English language repeat the party's statements to the court or jury.

Rules Relating to Court Interpreters adopted September 20, 2000; amended September 17, 2003. Renumbered and codified as Neb. Ct. R. §§ 6-701 – 6-706, effective July 18, 2008.

Court Interpreter Fee Schedule and Payment Policy

The fees and expenses of an interpreter shall be fixed and ordered paid by the judge before whom such proceeding takes place, in accordance with a fee schedule established by the Supreme Court, and be paid out of the General Fund with funds appropriated to the Supreme Court for that purpose. ([Neb. Rev. Stat. § 25-2406](#))

The Nebraska Supreme Court establishes the following interpreter fee schedule:

A. For non-certified interpreters: \$35.00 per hour, 2-hour minimum. Interpreter services and travel time will be included in the 2-hour minimum.

B. For an interpreter who is a Nebraska Supreme Court Certified or Provisionally Certified Court Interpreter, \$50.00 per hour, 2-hour minimum. Interpreter services and travel time will be included in the 2-hour minimum.

C. (1) For purposes of payment, sign interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing who possess a Level I or II classification pursuant to [Neb. Ct. R. § 6-702\(D\)](#), are considered certified and are paid \$50 per hour (i.e., interpreters who hold at least one of the following RID certificates: Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L), NIC Master, NIC Advanced, NIC (basic), CI/CT, CSC. Deaf interpreters certified by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf).

(2) For purposes of payment, sign interpreters who possess a Level III classification pursuant to [Neb. Ct. R. § 6-702\(D\)](#) are considered non-certified and are paid \$35 per hour (i.e., interpreters who hold RID CI, RID CT, NAD 4 or 5, QAST 4/4 or higher. Deaf interpreters who hold a Nebraska Specialist Intermediary License).

D. Unless otherwise agreed to, interpreters shall be paid by the hour in 15-minute increments. Time shall be determined by using the next highest 15-minute increment (i.e., 2 hours 4 minutes equals 2 hours 15 minutes).

E. In the event an interpreter has multiple assignments within 2 hours for the same or different offices, only one “2-hour minimum” shall be permitted. Only one “2-hour minimum” shall be permitted in the morning and only one “2-hour minimum” shall be permitted in the afternoon. Travel time will be considered in determining minimum hours for payment.

F. Round-trip mileage will be compensated at the rate set forth by the Nebraska Supreme Court if the number of miles traveled from the interpreter’s starting point to the interpreting site (e.g., courthouse or probation office) is more than 15 miles one way. In addition, interpreters whose assignments require them to travel 50 or more miles in a single day are eligible to receive compensation for time spent traveling to and from those assignments **provided that when combined, the time spent traveling and the time spent interpreting exceeds the 2-hour minimum**. In such instances, certified, provisionally certified, and non-certified interpreters shall be compensated for driving to and from assignments at the rate of 80 percent of the hourly rate for time in excess of the 2-hour minimum. For purposes of compensation, 50 miles is equal to 1 hour of travel time.

G. If an interpreter has an assignment which is canceled within 2 business days of the time the assignment is due to commence, the court shall, by written authorization, allow the interpreter payment for all the reserved time. The judge shall authorize and certify the amount of time that was reserved, subject to mitigation.

H. The State Court Administrator shall be permitted to enter into contracts with individual interpreters to perform interpretation services for a specified service area at a rate established by the contract.

I. Notwithstanding the above fee schedule, a chief probation officer, or a judge before whom a proceeding has taken place, an interpreter, and the State Court Administrator may agree to pay an amount for interpreter services which is other than the established rate.

J. An interpreter shall complete and submit a standard approved STATEMENT FOR PAYMENT OF INTERPRETER form for any unclaimed interpreter services between the 1st and the 7th day of the month only. The form shall include all authorizing signatures, names of courts, probation districts and counties, and types of activities being interpreted. Statements may include assignments from multiple courts and probation districts and shall include authorizing signatures from each judge, clerk, or probation officer for whom the service was provided. No payment will be made for services provided six months or more before the submission of the billing statement unless good cause is shown why the statement could not have been timely submitted.

Amended effective this 19th day of December, 2012.

/signed/Janice K. Walker, State Court Administrator

Court Interpreter Registry

Certified Court Interpreters:

Language	District	Name	Year Certified	City, State
ASL	3	Connie Herndon		Lincoln, NE
ASL	3	Lorelei Waldron		Ceresco, NE
ASL	4	Jamy Elker		Omaha, NE
ASL	4	Maureen Larsen		Gretna, NE
ASL	Out of State	David Borgalia		Council Bluffs, IA
ASL	Out of State	Rachel Johns		Sioux City, IA
Mandarin	3	Claudio Huang	2009	Omaha, NE
Somali	Out of State	Abdi Elmi		Newport, MN
Russian	3	Victoria Welles	2011	Lincoln, NE
Russian	3	Nick Nersesian	2010	Lincoln, NE
Spanish	3	Raul Escobar	2007	Lincoln, NE
Spanish	3	Jo-Hanna Goettsche	2007	Lincoln, NE
Spanish	3	Jose Herrero	2009	Lincoln, NE
Spanish	3	Vladimir Bazan	2012	Lincoln, NE
Spanish	3	Alex Perez	2007	Lincoln, NE
Spanish	4	Adriana Hinojosa	2006	Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Elizabeth Kelley	2001	Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Cristina Kropf	2006	Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Kevin Lunt	2006	Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Constanza Meier	2001	Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Janeth Murillo		Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Jeck Navarrete	2001	Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Lilia Uitts	2010	Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Kelly Varguez	2009	Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Al Villarreal	2010	Omaha, NE

Language	District	Name	Year Certified	City, State
Spanish	4	Karen Bahr	2009	Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Marty Hosking		Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Janet Bonet	2001	Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Martha Brester	2010	Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Olivia Brockman	2009	Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Laura Garcia-Hein		Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Ashley C. Enriquez	2013	Omaha, NE
Spanish	5	Kelly Murph	2004	Aurora, NE
Spanish	5	Irma Watt	2005	Columbus, NE
Spanish	6	Giovanna Camet	2006	Sioux City, IA
Spanish	6	Shelly Hodges	2009	Sioux City, IA
Spanish	7	Dale Taylor	2005	Norfolk, NE
Spanish	9	Belkin Gonzalez	2007	Grand Island, NE
Spanish	11	Stacey Con	2001	Lexington, NE
Spanish	11	Maria Easterday	2004	Lexington, NE
Spanish	11	Robert Roos	2004	Lexington, NE
Spanish	12	Sarah Shannon	2004	Mitchell, NE
Spanish	12	Luis Sanchez	2009	Alliance, NE
Spanish	Out of State	Javier Callram		Lake Crystal, MN
Spanish	Out of State	Nicole Callram		Lake Crystal, MN
Spanish	Out of State	Robert Kingston	2010	
Spanish	Out of State	Natalie Malmberg	2001	Atoka, TN
Spanish	Out of State	Ernest Nino-Murcia		Iowa City, IA
Spanish	Out of State	Terri Doolittle	2012	
Spanish	Out of State	Miryan Ingrassia	2013	Kissimmee, FL

Registered Court Interpreters:

Language	District	Name	Year Registered	City, State
Spanish	1	Elias Bracamonte	2008	Topeka, KS
Spanish	2	Guadalupe McIntosh	2006	Bellevue, NE
Spanish	2	Marilyn Morales-Toppi	2000	Bellevue, NE
Spanish	3	Erica Birky Rios	2007	Lincoln, NE
Spanish	3	Lisette Gilster	2008	Lincoln, NE
Spanish	3	Lupe Hickey	2008	Lincoln, NE
Spanish	3	Walter Manuel Mendez	2008	Lincoln, NE
Spanish	3	Erick Saavedra	2007	Lincoln, NE
Spanish	3	Olga Soto	2007	Lincoln, NE
Spanish	3	Nancy Wenzl	2006	Lincoln, NE
Spanish	3	Ricky Wray	2008	Lincoln, NE
Spanish	3	Ricardo Izquierdo	2013	Lincoln, NE
Spanish	4	John Huffman	2007	Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Laura Smith	2006	Table Rock, NE
Spanish	4	Jim Duran	2005	Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Zaida Falcon	2010	Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Marcia Forecki	2007	Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Edie M. Cruise	2013	Omaha, NE
Spanish	4	Tara Jackson-Sanchez	2013	Elkhorn, NE
Spanish	5	Abigail Acosta	2012	Columbus, NE
Spanish	6	Frank Gonzalez	2001	Sgt. Bluff, IA
Spanish	6	Sara Tello	2010	Sioux City, IA
Spanish	7	Maria Zepeda	2008	Madison, NE
Spanish	7	Maria Isabel Chavez		Norfolk, NE

Language	District	Name	Year Registered	City, State
Spanish	9	Yaneth Soto	2010	Kearney, NE
Spanish	10	Penny Birky	2008	Hastings, NE
Spanish	11	Oscar Montes	2010	McCook, NE
Spanish	12	Maria-Teresa Troelstrup	2008	Sidney, NE
French	3	Frederique Sevet-Collier	2010	Lincoln, NE
French	4	Marsha Conroy	2010	Omaha, NE
Arabic	3	Omar Sawan	2008	Monterey, CA
Vietnamese	3	Elizabeth Nguyen	2006	Lincoln, NE
Vietnamese	4	Myhanh Thi Che	2013	Omaha, NE
Bosnian/Serb/Croatian	3	Amila Tanovic-Music	2013	Lincoln, NE
Portuguese	Out of State	Miryan Ingrassia	2013	Kissimmee, FL

Other Court Interpreters:

Language	District	Name	City, State
Russian	4	Valentina Fitch	Omaha, NE
French	4	Cinnamon Guignard	Omaha, NE
French	4	Biba Ouedraogo	Omaha, NE
French	4	Bryan Watkins	Omaha, NE
Arabic	3	Mohammed Siddiq	Lincoln, NE
Vietnamese	3	Viet Tran	Lincoln, NE
Vietnamese	3	Coi Dinh	Lincoln, NE
Vietnamese	3	Maurice Loc Le	Lincoln, NE
Vietnamese	4	Myhanh Che	Omaha, NE
Cantonese - Mandarin	3	Luna Tsang-Sahs	Bennett, NE

Data Derived from the 2011 U. S. Census Bureau



Linguistic Diversity in Select States

STATE	LEP POPULATION (THOUSANDS)	LANG 1	LANG 2	LANG 3	LANG 4	LANG 5
UNITED STATES	25,052	SPANISH	CHINESE	VIETNAMESE	KOREAN	TAGALOG
TEXAS	3,310	SPANISH	VIETNAMESE	CHINESE	KOREAN	AFRICAN LANGUAGES
NEVADA	327	SPANISH	TAGALOG	CHINESE	KOREAN	AFRICAN LANGUAGES
ARIZONA	616	SPANISH	NAVAJO	CHINESE	VIETNAMESE	ARABIC
ARKANSAS	87	SPANISH	VIETNAMESE	LAOTIAN	CHINESE	HMONG
GEORGIA	525	SPANISH	KOREAN	VIETNAMESE	CHINESE	AFRICAN LANGUAGES
NEBRASKA	75	SPANISH	VIETNAMESE	AFRICAN LANGUAGES	CHINESE	ARABIC
SOUTH CAROLINA	134	SPANISH	CHINESE	VIETNAMESE	FRENCH	GERMAN
WASHINGTON	497	SPANISH	CHINESE	VIETNAMESE	KOREAN	RUSSIAN
UTAH	135	SPANISH	CHINESE	VIETNAMESE	KOREAN	NAVAJO

Source: MPI analysis of pooled 2008-2010 American Community Survey data



High Growth States

RANK	STATE	1990 LEP POPULATION (THOUSANDS)	2010 LEP POPULATION (THOUSANDS)	CHANGE FROM 1990 TO 2010 (PERCENT)
1	NEVADA	62	310	398.2
2	NORTH CAROLINA	87	430	395.2
3	GEORGIA	109	522	378.8
4	ARKANSAS	21	88	311.5
5	TENNESSEE	46	174	281.4
6	NEBRASKA	22	76	242.2
7	SOUTH CAROLINA	38	127	237.2
8	UTAH	41	137	235.2
9	WASHINGTON	165	512	209.7
10	ALABAMA	36	109	202.1

Source: MPI tabulations of 2010 American Community Survey



Dispersal of LEP Population



Source: MPI tabulations of 2010 American Community Survey



**Nebraska: Languages Spoken by Limited English Proficient
(LEP: Number and Share of Total State/County Population)**

LEP number estimates by language are displayed only if 500 persons or more; LEP percentage estimates by language are displayed only if 5 percent or more.

	Total Population	Total LEP Population	Language 1 (name)	Language 1 (LEP number)	Language 1 (LEP % of total pop)
Adams	29,100	1,200	Spanish	900	
Antelope	6,300	100			
Arthur	400	-			
Banner	700	-			
Blaine	600	-			
Boone	5,200	-			
Box Butte	10,600	200			
Boyd	2,000	-			
Brown	3,000	-			
Buffalo	42,600	1,000	Spanish	800	
Burt	6,500	100			
Butler	7,900	100			
Cass	23,700	200			
Cedar	8,300	-			
Chase	3,700	100			
Cherry	5,500	100			
Cheyenne	9,400	100			
Clay	6,200	100			
Colfax	9,400	2,100	Spanish	2,000	20.8
Cuming	8,700	500	Spanish		5.1
Custer	10,300	100			
Dakota	19,100	4,200	Spanish	3,200	16.6
Dawes	8,800	100			
Dawson	22,200	3,700	Spanish	3,300	15.0
Deuel	1,900	-			
Dixon	5,600	400	Spanish		6.3
Dodge	34,200	1,800	Spanish	1,700	5.0

	Total Population	Total LEP Population	Language 1 (name)	Language 1 (LEP number)	Language 1 (LEP % of total pop)
*Douglas	472,000	27,700	Spanish	20,600	
Dundy	1,900	100			
Fillmore	5,600	-			
Franklin	3,000	-			
Frontier	2,600	-			
Furnas	4,700	-			
Gage	21,000	100			
Garden	1,900	-			
Garfield	2,000	-			
Gosper	1,900	-			
Grant	600	-			
Greeley	2,400	-			
Hall	53,000	5,400	Spanish	5,000	9.5
Hamilton	8,600	100			
Harlan	3,300	-			
Hayes	900	-			
Hitchcock	2,700	-			
Holt	9,800	-			
Hooker	700	-			
Howard	5,900	-			
Jefferson	7,200	-			
Johnson	5,000	200			
Kearney	6,200	100			
Keith	7,900	200			
Keya Paha	700	-			
Kimball	3,600	100			
Knox	8,200	-			
**Lancaster	262,900	10,800	Spanish	4,100	
Lincoln	33,700	600	Spanish	500	
Logan	700	-			
Loup	600	-			
McPherson	400	-			
Madison	32,000	2,100	Spanish	2,000	6.1
Merrick	7,300	-			
Morrill	4,700	200			
Nance	3,500	-			
Nemaha	6,800	100			
Nuckolls	4,300	-			

	Total Population	Total LEP Population	Language 1 (name)	Language 1 (LEP number)	Language 1 (LEP % of total pop)
Otoe	14,700	300			
Pawnee	2,600	100			
Perkins	2,800	-			
Phelps	8,600	100			
Pierce	6,800	100			
Platte	29,600	1,700	Spanish	1,600	5.3
Polk	5,100	100			
Red Willow	10,300	100			
Richardson	8,000	-			
Rock	1,500	-			
Saline	13,300	1,500	Spanish	1,300	9.4
Sarpy	142,800	4,600	Spanish	2,700	
Saunders	19,300	200			
Scotts Bluff	34,200	1,100	Spanish	1,000	
Seward	15,700	100			
Sheridan	5,100	100			
Sherman	2,900	-			
Sioux	1,300	-			
Stanton	5,700	-			
Thayer	4,900	-			
Thomas	700	-			
Thurston	6,200	100			
Valley	4,000	-			
Washington	18,900	200			
Wayne	9,000	200			
Webster	3,600	-			
Wheeler	600	-			
York	13,000	300			

*Douglas County also had the following: Other Asian languages, 1300; Chinese, 900; African languages, 800; French, 700; and Vietnamese, 600.

**Lancaster County also had the following: Vietnamese, 2200; Arabic, 1000; and Chinese, 900.

Notes: LEP number estimates by language are displayed only if 500 persons or more; LEP percentage estimates by language are displayed only if 5 percent or more. Consistent with US Census Bureau reporting, estimates for the United States overall do not include data from Puerto Rico.

Population estimates are for individuals age 5 and older.

The term LEP refers to any person age 5 and older who reported speaking English “less than very well,” as classified by the US Census Bureau.

"Spanish" includes Spanish and Spanish Creole; "French" includes Patois and Cajun; "Chinese" includes Mandarin, Cantonese, and Chinese.

No further detail exists for the “African languages” category in the original source data.

Source: Migration Policy Institute tabulations from the US Census Bureau’s pooled 2009-2011 American Community Survey (for the United States and states, except Wyoming and Puerto Rico) and 2007-2011 ACS (for counties, plus Wyoming and Puerto Rico), Table B16001 “Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over,” available through the American FactFinder at <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>. Data were compiled by Joseph Russell, Jeanne Batalova, and Chhandasi Pandya of MPI.

Language Other than English Spoken at Home

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates. Updated every year. <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

Definitions:

Persons were asked to report whether they sometimes or always **spoke a language other than English at home**. People who knew languages other than English but did not use them at home, who only used them elsewhere, or whose usage was limited to a few expressions or slang were excluded.

Tabulations of language spoken at home include only the responses of persons 5 years old and over. The percentage shown is obtained by dividing the number of persons speaking a language other than English at home by the total number of persons 5 years and over.

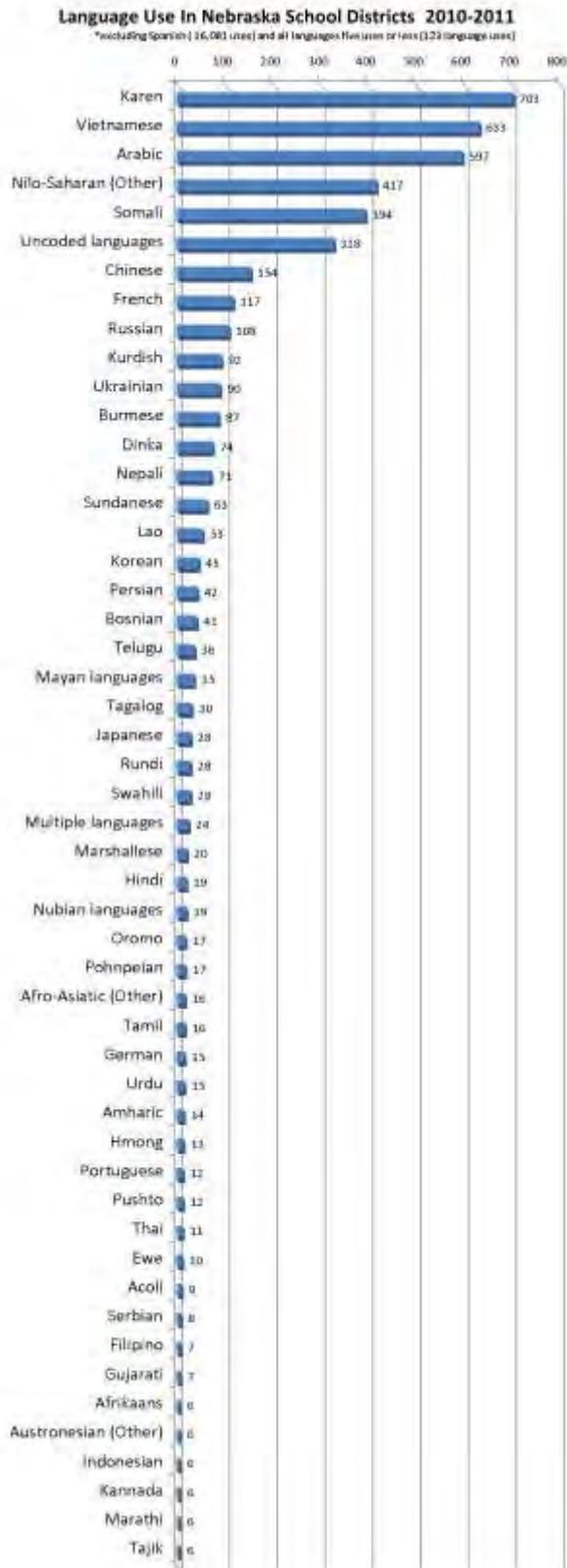
Scope and Methodology:

People QuickFacts	Nebraska	USA
Population, 2011 estimate	1,842,234	311,587,816
Foreign born persons, percent, 2007-2011	6.0%	12.8%
Language other than English spoken at home, percent age 5+, 2007-2011	9.9%	20.3%

SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES
2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 

Subject	Nebraska			
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error
PLACE OF BIRTH				
Total population	1,813,061	*****	1,813,061	(X)
Native	1,703,589	+/-2,133	94.0%	+/-0.1
Born in United States	1,691,014	+/-2,239	93.3%	+/-0.1
State of residence	1,188,498	+/-5,283	65.6%	+/-0.3
Different state	502,516	+/-4,672	27.7%	+/-0.3
Born in Puerto Rico, U.S. Island areas, or born abroad to American parent(s)	12,575	+/-724	0.7%	+/-0.1
Foreign born	109,472	+/-2,137	6.0%	+/-0.1
U.S. CITIZENSHIP STATUS				
Foreign-born population	109,472	+/-2,137	109,472	(X)
Naturalized U.S. citizen	37,759	+/-1,536	34.5%	+/-1.4
Not a U.S. citizen	71,713	+/-2,204	65.5%	+/-1.4
YEAR OF ENTRY				
Population born outside the United States	122,047	+/-2,243	122,047	(X)
Native	12,575	+/-724	12,575	(X)
Entered 2000 or later	2,361	+/-397	18.8%	+/-2.7
Entered before 2000	10,214	+/-596	81.2%	+/-2.7
Foreign born	109,472	+/-2,137	109,472	(X)
Entered 2000 or later	46,020	+/-1,634	42.0%	+/-1.2
Entered before 2000	63,452	+/-1,785	58.0%	+/-1.2
WORLD REGION OF BIRTH OF FOREIGN BORN				
Foreign-born population, excluding population born at sea	109,472	+/-2,137	109,472	(X)
Europe	9,431	+/-747	8.6%	+/-0.7
Asia	27,090	+/-937	24.7%	+/-0.9
Africa	8,837	+/-1,055	8.1%	+/-0.9
Oceania	476	+/-132	0.4%	+/-0.1
Latin America	62,059	+/-1,681	56.7%	+/-1.2
Northern America	1,579	+/-262	1.4%	+/-0.2
LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME				
Population 5 years and over	1,683,103	+/-345	1,683,103	(X)
English only	1,515,814	+/-2,687	90.1%	+/-0.2
Language other than English	167,289	+/-2,656	9.9%	+/-0.2
Speak English less than "very well"	74,679	+/-1,863	4.4%	+/-0.1
Spanish	110,871	+/-1,948	6.6%	+/-0.1
Speak English less than "very well"	54,785	+/-1,721	3.3%	+/-0.1
Other Indo-European languages	25,733	+/-1,327	1.5%	+/-0.1
Speak English less than "very well"	5,680	+/-558	0.3%	+/-0.1
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	20,206	+/-832	1.2%	+/-0.1
Speak English less than "very well"	9,821	+/-780	0.6%	+/-0.1
Other languages	10,479	+/-1,268	0.6%	+/-0.1
Speak English less than "very well"	4,393	+/-665	0.3%	+/-0.1

Language Use in Nebraska School Districts 2010-2011



*Spanish and languages with five or less uses in 2010-2011	Uses
Spanish	16081
Shona	5
Turkish	5
Chuukese	4
Creoles and pidgins, French-based (Other)	4
Dzongkha	4
Hebrew	4
Khmer	4
Nauru	4
Niger-Kordofanian (Other)	4
Panjabi; Punjabi	4
Sinhala	4
Twi	4
Albanian	3
Bengali; ben	3
Italian	3
Malayalam	3
Mandar	3
Mongolian	3
Philippine (Other)	3
Polish	3
Siouan languages	3
Bantu (Other)	2
Bemba	2
Czech	2
Greek, Modern	2
Igbo	2
Luba-Katanga	2
Newari; Nepal Bhasa	2
Romanian	2
Tai (Other)	2
Aramaic	1
Bulgarian	1
Chewa	1
Creoles and pidgins (Other)	1
Croatian	1
Fanti	1
Haitian Creole	1
Icelandic	1
Indo-European (Other)	1
Kachin	1
Kinyarwanda	1
Lithuanian	1
Lunda	1
Mandingo	1
Mende	1
North American Indian (Other)	1
North Ndebele	1
Ossetian	1
Palauan	1
Sami languages (Other)	1
Sukuma	1
Swedish	1
Tigrinya	1
Turkmen	1
Uzbek	1
Wolof	1
Yoruba	1
Zande	1

Judicial Branch Education Archive

Date	Title/Subject and Type of Training	Audience
March 2013	Use of Video Conferencing to Access Sign and Language Interpreters (webinar)	Court and Probation Staff
March 2013	Access to Nebraska Court Interpreters (webinar)	Court and Probation Staff
November 2012	Interpreters and Language Access (live training)	Court Staff
September 2012	Jabber and Remote Interpreters (live training)	Clerk Magistrates
April 2012	Interpreters and Language Access (live training)	Court Staff (new)
February 2012	Interpreters and Language Access (live training)	Judges (new)
August 2011	Interpreters and Language Access (live training)	Judges (new)
March 2011	Interpreters and Language Access (live training)	Court Staff (new)
February 2011	Interpreters and Language Access (live training)	Judges (new)
June 2010	Interpreters - Preparing the Bill of Exceptions (webinar)	Official Court Reporters
October 2009	Training on Use of Interpreters (live training)	Judges

Signage Notifying LEP Individuals of Interpretation Services

Spanish:

Hay intérpretes disponibles a ningún costo para usted, para las audiencias o citas de libertad condicional. Si necesita ayuda para entender o hablar inglés o si es sordo o tiene dificultad escuchando, por favor notifíqueme al personal del tribunal si necesita un intérprete, y en qué idioma.

Arabic:

إذا كنت بحاجة للمساعدة في تكلم أو فهم اللغة الإنكليزية ، أو في حال الصمم أو وجود مشاكل في السمع ، يوجد مترجمين متورين مجاناً للجلسات القضائية و المواعيد المتعلقة بإطلاق السراح المشروط الرجاء إعلام موظفي المحكمة إذا كنت بحاجة لمترجم و اللغة التي تتحدثها.

Free Interpreters are available for court proceedings and probation appointments if you need help speaking or understanding English or are deaf or hard of hearing. Please let court staff know you need an interpreter and the language you speak.

Somali:

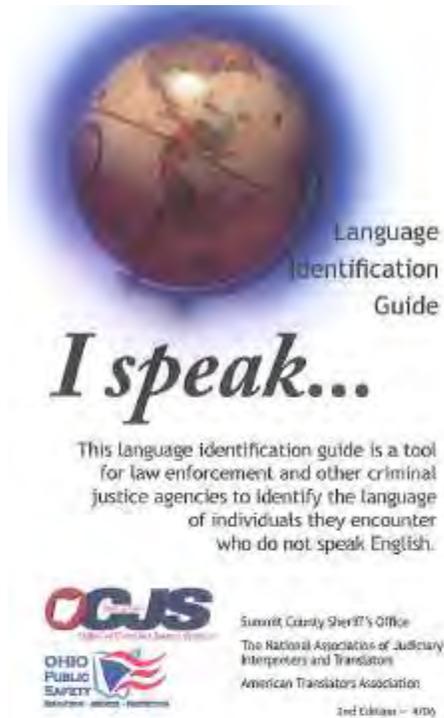
Turjubaano lacag la'aan ah ayaad heli kartaan oo idiin tarjuma dhageysiga maxkamadda iyo balanta xafiiska kor kala socoshada

Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa caawiyo ku hadalka ama fahamka afka Ingiriisiga ama aad dhagoole tahay ama maqalku kugu adag yahay, fadlan la socodsii shaqaalaha maxkamadda in aad u dooneyso tarjubaan ku hadla lugadda aad ku hadasho

Vietnamese:

Quý vị có thể nhận dịch vụ thông dịch miễn phí tại các phiên tòa và buổi hẹn gặp nhân viên quản chế nếu quý vị cần được giúp đỡ để nói hay hiểu tiếng Anh hoặc quý vị bị điếc hay khiếm thính. Xin báo cho nhân viên tòa án biết rằng quý vị cần thông dịch viên và ngôn ngữ của quý vị là gì.

“I Speak...” Language Identification Guide



Language Identification Guide

I speak...

This language identification guide is a tool for law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies to identify the language of individuals they encounter who do not speak English.

OCJS
Ohio Criminal Justice System

Summit County Sheriff's Office
The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators
American Translators Association

2nd Edition - 4/06

OCJS

The Purpose of This Language Identification Guide

As the limited English proficient (LEP) population continues to increase in the state of Ohio and nationwide, the number of LEP defendants, victims, and witnesses processed through the Ohio criminal justice system will also increase. This guide can help to obtain interpretive services, which is the first step in working with LEP persons. It is also intended as a resource for the criminal justice community to ensure consistent and effective interaction with LEP persons.

I speak... **OCJS**

A

Arabic
أنا أتحدث اللغة العربية

Armenian
Ես խոսում եմ հայերեն

B

Bengali
আমী বাংলা কথা বোলতে পারী

Bosnian
Ja govorim bosanski

Bulgarian
Аз говоря български

Burmese
ကျွန်ုပ်တို့/ကျွန်ုပ်မတို့ မြန်မာ ဝန် ဝန်ဆောင်ခံ ဝါတောင်း

C

Cambodian
ខ្ញុំនិយាយភាសាខ្មែរ

Cantonese
我講廣東話 (Traditional)
我讲广东话 (Simplified)

Catalan
Parlo català

Croatian
Govorim hrvatski

Czech
Mluvím česky

OCJS

D

Dari
من دری حرف می زنم

Dutch
Ik spreek het Nederlands

F

Farsi
من فارسی صحبت می کنم

French
Je parle français

G

German
Ich spreche Deutsch



G

Greek
Μιλώ τα ελληνικά

Gujarati
હું ગુજરાતી બોલું છું

H

Haitian Creole
M pale kreyòl ayisyen

Hebrew
אני מדבר עברית

Hindi
मैं हिंदी बोलता हूँ ।



Hmong
Kuv has lug Moob

Hungarian
Beszélek magyarul

I

Ilocano
Agsaonak ti Ilokano

Italian
Parlo italiano

J

Japanese
私は日本語を話す



K

Kackchiquel
Quin chagüic'ká chabal' ruin' rí
tzújon cakchiquel

Korean
한국어 합니다

Kurdish
man Kurdîi zaanim

Kurmanci
man Kurmaanjiî zaanim

L

Laotian
ຂ້ອຍປາກພາສາລາວ



Latvian
Es runāju latviski

Lithuanian
Aš kalbu lietuviškai

M

Mandarin
我講國語 (Traditional)
我讲国语/普通话 (Simplified)

Mam
Bán chiyola tuj kiyol mam

Mon
འོ་ཤེ་ འཇུག་པཎ་



N

Norwegian
Jeg snakker norsk

P

Persian
من فارسی صحبت می کنم.

Polish
Mówię po polsku

Portuguese
Eu falo português do Brasil
(for Brazil)
Eu falo português de Portugal
(for Portugal)

Punjabi
ਮੈਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਬੋਲਦਾ/ਬੋਲਦੀ ਹਾਂ।



Q

Qanjobal
Ayin ti chí wal q'anjob'al

Quiche
In kinch'aw k'u'in ch'e quiche

R

Romanian
Vorbesc românește

Russian
Я говорю по-русски

S

Serbian
Ja говорим српски



S

Sign Language (American)



Slovak
Hovorím po slovensky

Somali
Waxaan ku hadlaa af-Soomaali

Spanish
Yo hablo español

Swahili
Ninaongea Kiswahili

Swedish
Jag talar svenska



T

Tagalog
Marunong akong mag-Tagalog

Thai
พูดภาษาไทย

Turkish
Türkçe konuşurum

U

Ukrainian
Я розмовляю українською мовою

Urdu
میں اردو بولتا ہوں



V

Vietnamese
Tôi nói tiếng Việt

W

Welsh
Dwi'n siarad

X

Xhosa
Ndithetha isiXhosa

Y

Yiddish
איך רעד יידיש



Yoruba
Mo nso Yooba

Z

Zulu
Ngiyasikhuluma isiZulu



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Nebraska Supreme Court Personnel Policies and Procedures Relating to Bilingual Employees

B. Bilingual Employees

The State Court Administrator or the State Probation Administrator, in consultation with the hiring supervisor, may approve an increased hiring rate for a bilingual employee. The need for a bilingual employee and the language skill level demonstrated by testing approved by the Administrative Office will be factors in the process to approve an increased hiring rate. A bilingual employee is expected to perform all duties of the job for which he or she is hired. The supervisor should, as needed, adjust the bilingual employee's workload based on the time the employee may be taken away from his or her duties to assist non-English speaking customers.

Court employees who were hired prior to this policy who are or become bilingual may request testing to determine their language skill level. Based on the results of the test, the supervisor may recommend a salary adjustment to the State Court Administrator or State Probation Administrator.

Bilingual employees shall not serve as courtroom interpreters unless approved by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Approved 3-28-07

Bilingual Employee Testing Process

To evaluate a potential employee or a current employee to determine the level of language skill, complete the following procedure:

Contact certified court interpreter Jeck Jenard Navarrete at 402-221-7880 or jeckl@cox.net. If you are unable to reach him, another certified court interpreter may be contacted. The list of all certified court interpreters are on the Nebraska Judicial Branch website.

The following are steps for the interpreter, supervisor, and employee to follow to complete the testing process:

1. The interpreter phones the employee's supervisor to get approval of the time to conduct the test.
2. The interpreter phones the employee and supervisor at the approved time, then faxes the script to the supervisor.
3. The supervisor gives the script to the employee when indicated by the rater (interpreter).
4. The employee interprets the script over the phone. Interpreting will be limited to a total of 6 minutes:
 - a. A maximum of 2 minutes will be allowed for employee to read and familiarize him/herself with the document.
 - b. The rater/interpreter will announce:
 - i. One minute has lapsed.
 - ii. Two minutes have lapsed and ask the employee to start interpreting, if he/she has not begun already.
 - iii. Please stop interpreting (at the end of the 6 minutes).
5. The supervisor takes the script from the employee.
6. The supervisor destroys (shreds) the script.
7. The interpreter rates the employee, using the following scale:
 - a. Excellent, 34 – 38
 - b. Adequate, 26 – 33
 - c. Needs more ability to pass, 23 – 25
 - d. Failed, 0-22

Nebraska Probation System Policies and Procedures

Chapter 1: Administration
Policy #3: Use of Interpreters

...

IV. Procedure

...

E. Using Bilingual Staff

1. Bilingual Probation support staff can work with clients in scheduling appointments and collecting information for the probation officers as long as the only need is direct communication between the bilingual support staff person and an individual whose primary language is the language for which the bilingual support staff person has been tested and approved.
2. Bilingual probation officers can work with clients in scheduling appointments, supervision, and Probation-facilitated programs as long as the only need is direct communication between the bilingual probation officer and an individual whose primary language is the language for which the bilingual probation officer has been tested and approved.
3. Court interpreters must be used for presentence investigations, predisposition investigations, and any testing, the results of which will be sent to the court.

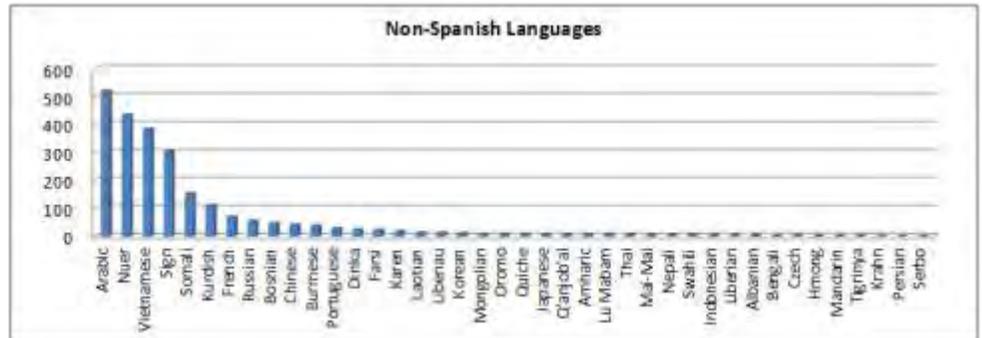
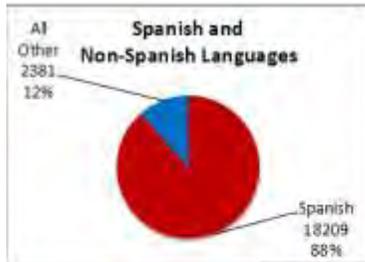
Interpreter Usage by Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

Total Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

	Individuals Served
Spanish	18209
Arabic	520
Nuer	434
Vietnamese	383
Sign	304
Somali	154
Kurdish	111
French	69
Russian	56
Bosnian	47
Chinese	41
Burmese	38
Portuguese	28
Dinka	24
Farsi	23
Karen	17
Laotian	13
Libenau	12
Korean	11
Mongolian	9
Oromo	8

	Individuals Served
Quiche	8
Japanese	7
Q'anjob'al	7
Amharic	6
Lu Mabam	6
Thai	6
Mal-Mai	5
Nepali	5
Swahili	5
Indonesian	4
Liberian	4
Albanian	3
Bengali	2
Czech	2
Hmong	2
Mandarin	2
Tigrinya	2
Krahn	1
Persian	1
Serbo	1
All	20590

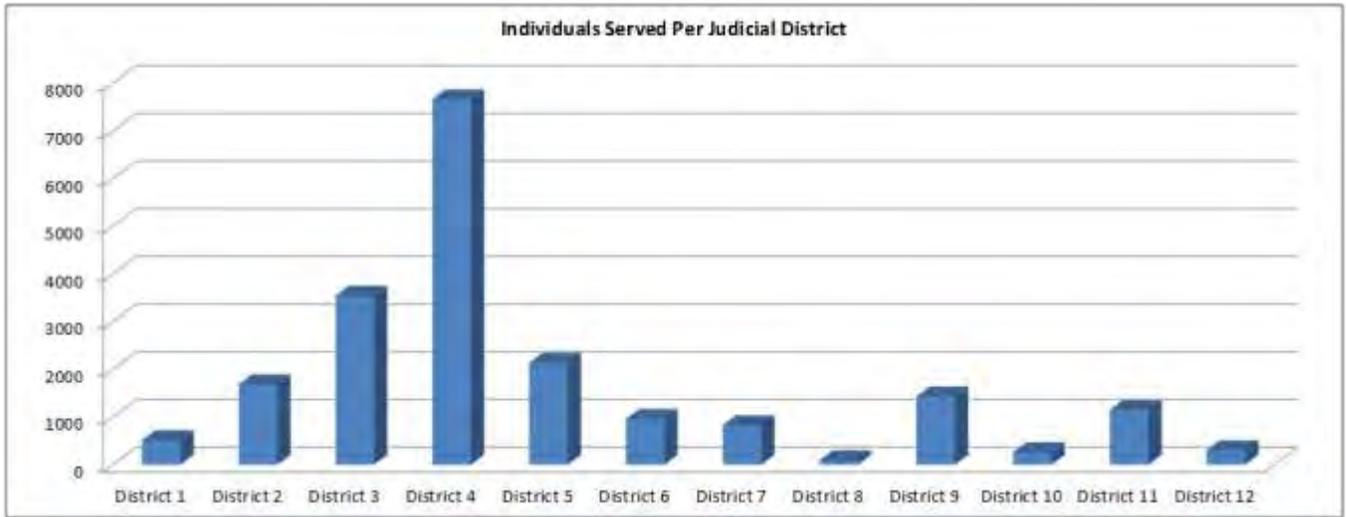
Total Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year



Total Interpreter Usage By Judicial District for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7	District 8	District 9	District 10	District 11	District 12
Total Individuals Served	513	1686	3542	7663	2134	958	827	90	1429	258	1147	302

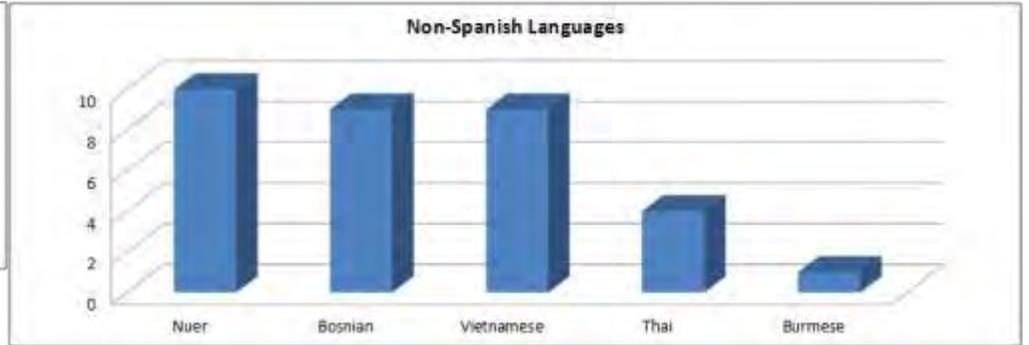
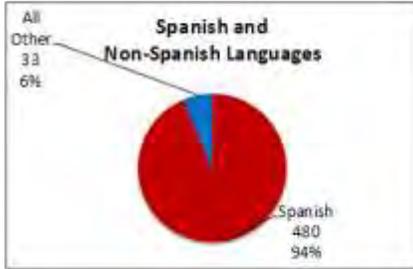
Total Interpreter Usage By Judicial District for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year



First Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

	Clay	Fillmore	Gage	Jefferson	Johnson	Nemaha	Nuckolls	Pawnee	Richardson	Saline	Thayer	All Counties
Spanish	16	13	11	9	9	4	1		2	414	1	480
Nuer						4				6		10
Bosnian										9		9
Vietnamese										9		9
Thai		4										4
Burmese										1		1
All	16	17	11	9	9	8	1		2	439	1	513

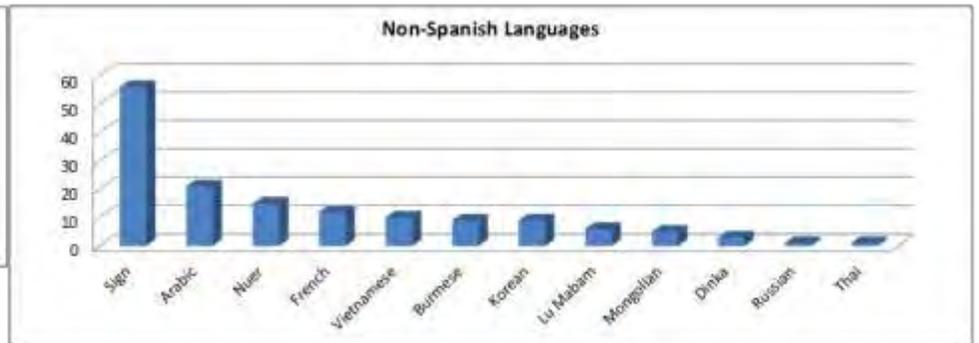
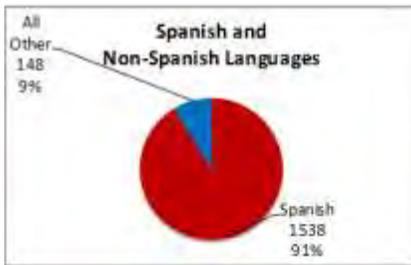
First Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year



Second Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

	Cass	Otoe	Sarpy	All Counties
Spanish	36	119	1383	1538
Sign	8	2	46	56
Arabic			21	21
Nuer			15	15
French			12	12
Vietnamese			10	10
Burmese		5	4	9
Korean			9	9
Lu Mabam			6	6
Mongolian			5	5
Dinka			3	3
Russian	1			1
Thai		1		1
All	45	127	1514	1686

Second Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

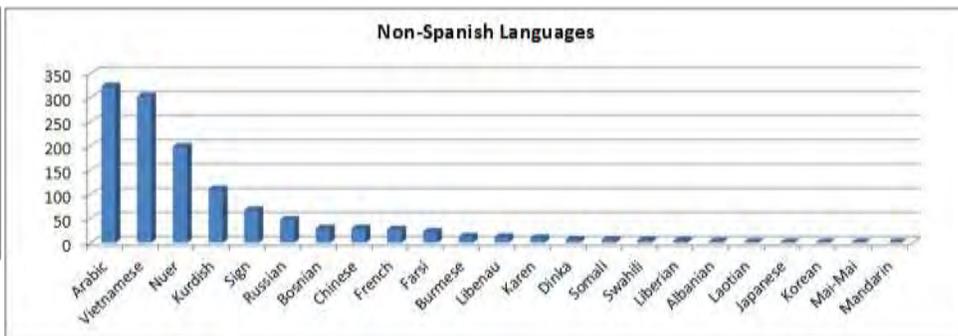
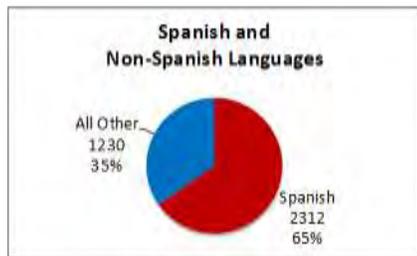


Third Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

	Lancaster
Spanish	2312
Arabic	324
Vietnamese	303
Nuer	199
Kurdish	111
Sign	68
Russian	48
Bosnian	30
Chinese	30
French	28
Farsi	23
Burmese	13
Libenau	12

	Lancaster
Karen	10
Dinka	7
Somali	6
Swahili	5
Liberian	4
Albanian	3
Laotian	2
Japanese	1
Korean	1
Mai-Mai	1
Mandarin	1
All	3542

Third Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

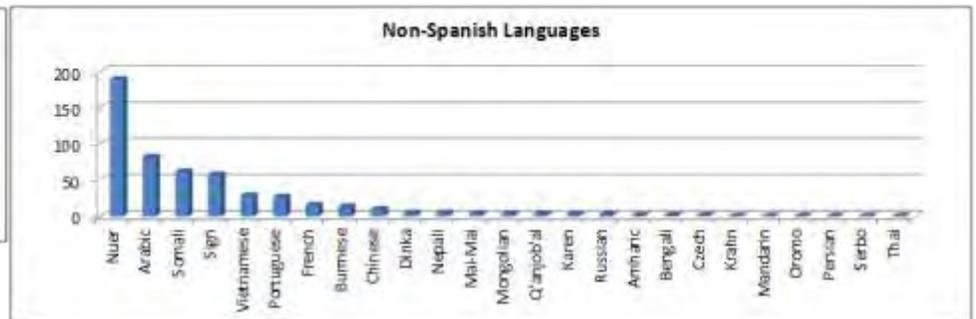
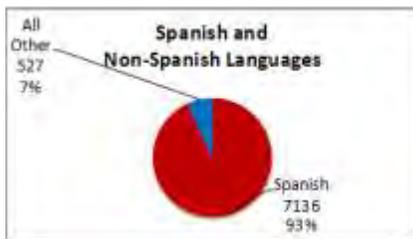


Fourth Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

	Douglas
Spanish	7136
Nuer	189
Arabic	82
Somali	62
Sign	58
Vietnamese	29
Portuguese	27
French	16
Burmese	14
Chinese	10
Dinka	5
Nepali	5
Mai-Mai	4
Mongolian	4

	Douglas
Q'anjob'al	4
Karen	3
Russian	3
Amharic	2
Bengali	2
Czech	2
Krahn	1
Mandarin	1
Oromo	1
Persian	1
Serbo	1
Thai	1
All	7663

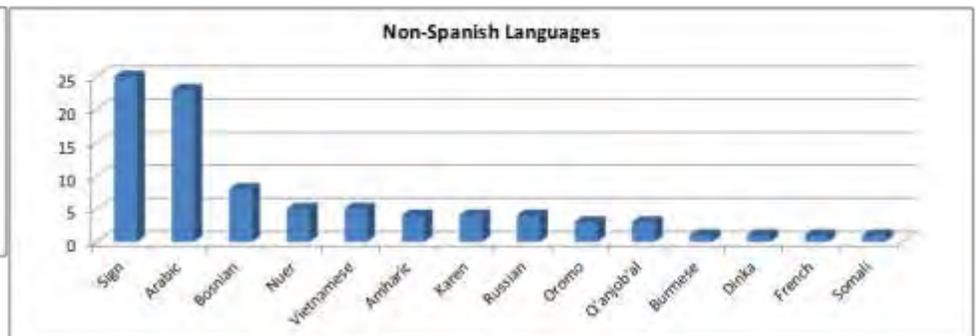
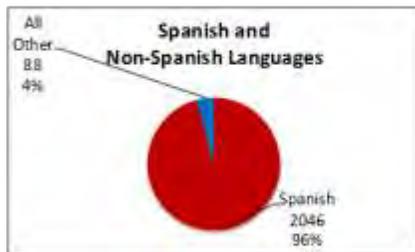
Fourth Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year



Fifth Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

	Boone	Butler	Colfax	Hamilton	Merrick	Nance	Platte	Polk	Saunder	Seward	York	All Counties
Spanish	8	58	1177	10	33	2	644	19	18	43	34	2046
Sign		4					2		12	7		25
Arabic			16				3			3	1	23
Bosnian		1		3						4		8
Nuer			2						1	2		5
Vietnamese									5			5
Amharic			4									4
Karen					3					1		4
Russian										4		4
Oromo			2	1								3
Q'anjob'al			3									3
Burmese										1		1
Dinka			1									1
French			1									1
Somali				1								1
All	8	63	1206	15	36	2	649	19	36	65	35	2134

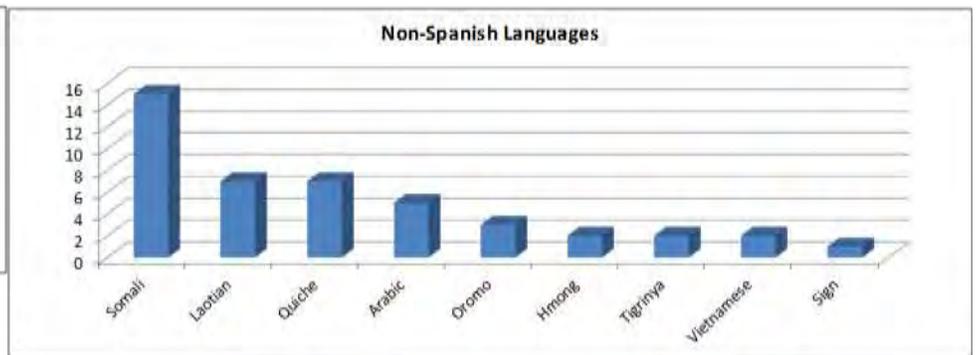
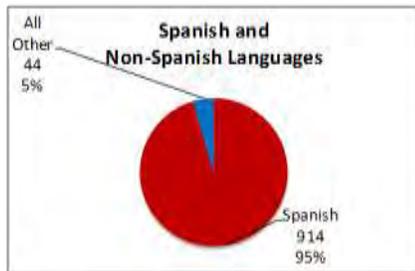
Fifth Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year



Sixth Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

	Burt	Cedar	Dakota	Dixon	Dodge	Thurston	Washington	All Counties
Spanish		11	413	53	386	22	29	914
Somali			15					15
Laotian			7					7
Quiche		1			6			7
Arabic			2	3				5
Oromo			3					3
Hmong			2					2
Tigrinya			2					2
Vietnamese			1		1			2
Sign					1			1
All		12	445	56	394	22	29	958

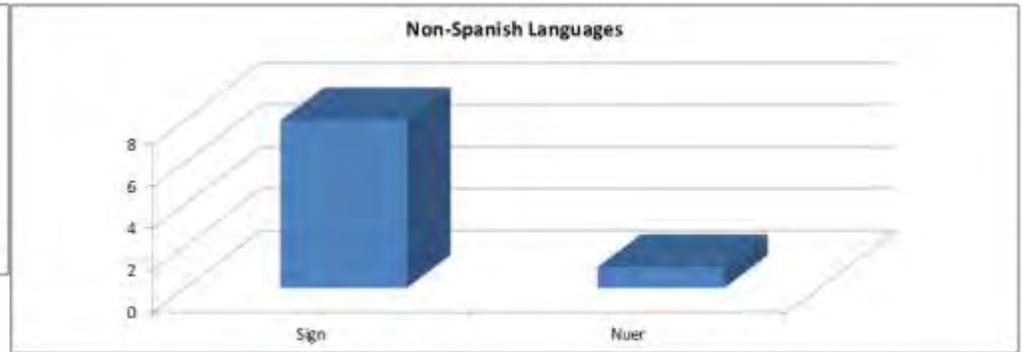
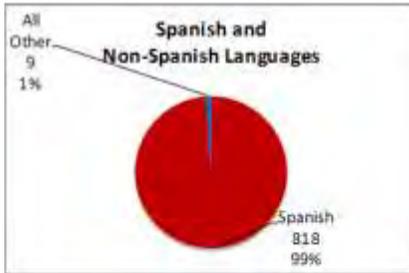
Sixth Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year



Seventh Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

	Antelope	Cuming	Knox	Madison	Pierce	Stanton	Wayne	All Counties
Spanish	43	104		619	16	13	23	818
Sign		1	5	2				8
Nuer				1				1
All	43	105	5	622	16	13	23	827

Seventh Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

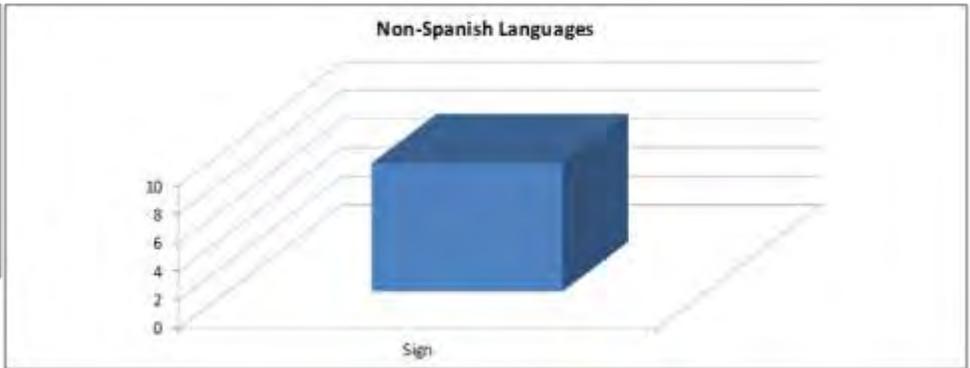
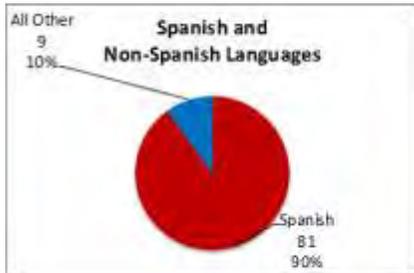


Eighth Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

	Blaine	Boyd	Brown	Cherry	Custer	Garfield	Greeley	Holt
Spanish					5			62
Sign								8
All					5			70

	Howard	Keya Paha	Loup	Rock	Sherman	Valley	Wheeler	All Counties
Spanish	12					2		81
Sign						1		9
All	12					3		90

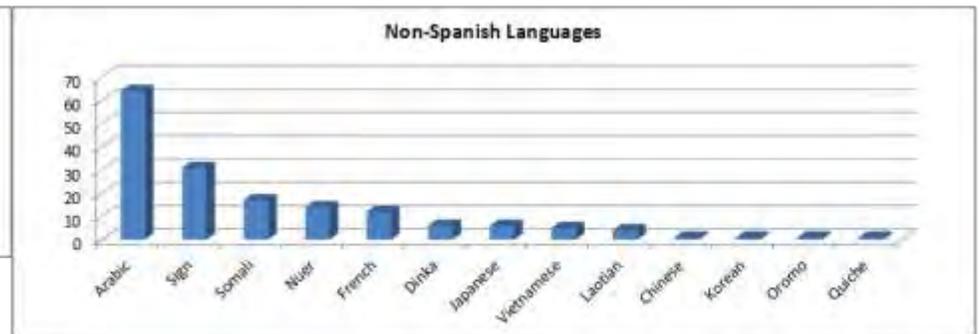
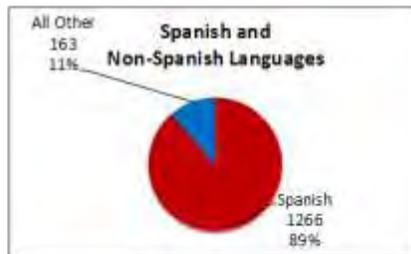
Eighth Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year



Ninth Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

	Buffalo	Hall	All Counties
Spanish	268	998	1266
Arabic		64	64
Sign	25	6	31
Somali		17	17
Nuer		14	14
French		12	12
Dinka		6	6
Japanese	6		6
Vietnamese		5	5
Laotian		4	4
Chinese	1		1
Korean		1	1
Oromo		1	1
Quiche		1	1
All	300	1129	1429

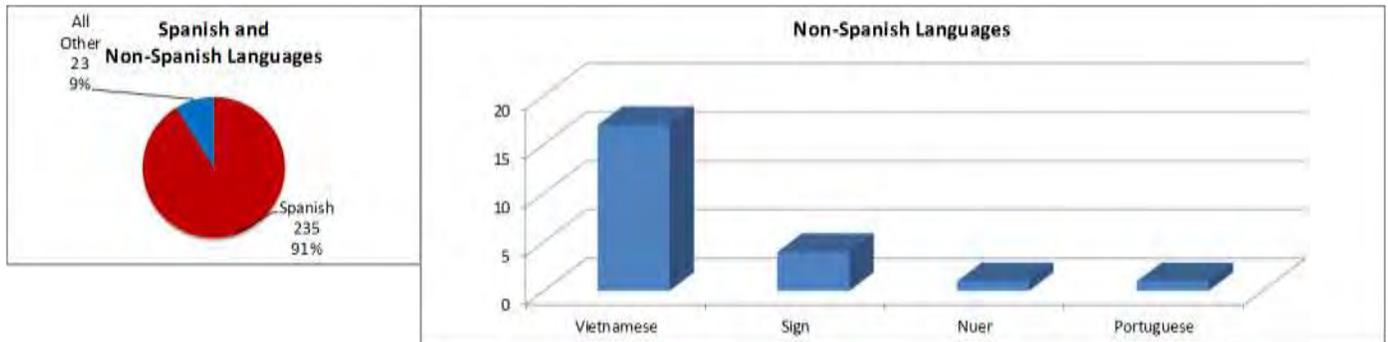
Ninth Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year



Tenth Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

	Adams	Franklin	Harlan	Kearney	Phelps	Webster	All Counties
Spanish	177	1	2	1	54		235
Vietnamese	17						17
Sign		1			3		4
Nuer	1						1
Portuguese	1						1
All	196	2	2	1	57		258

Tenth Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

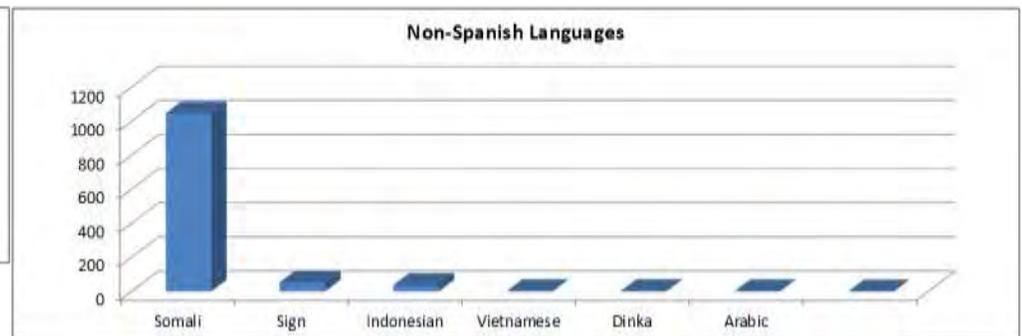
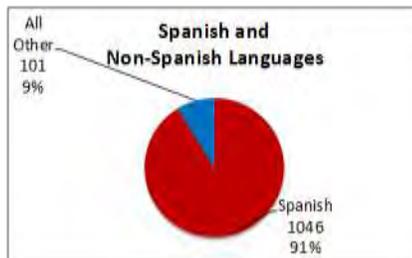


Eleventh Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

	Arthur	Chase	Dawson	Dundy	Frontier	Furnas	Gosper	Hayes	Hitchcock
Spanish		71	925			3	6	1	
Somali			53						
Sign			37						
Indonesian									
Vietnamese			3						
Dinka			2						
Arabic			1						
All		71	1021			3	6	1	

	Hooker	Keith	Lincoln	Logan	McPherson	Perkins	Red Willow	Thomas	All Counties
Spanish		14	11			4	11		1046
Somali									53
Sign			1						38
Indonesian							4		4
Vietnamese									3
Dinka									2
Arabic									1
All		14	12			4	15		1147

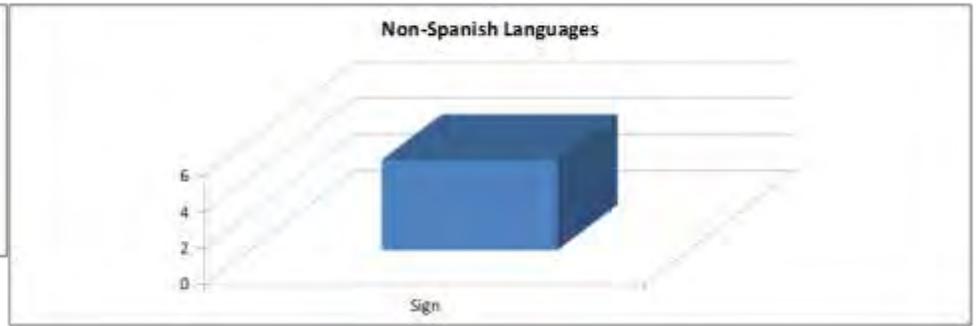
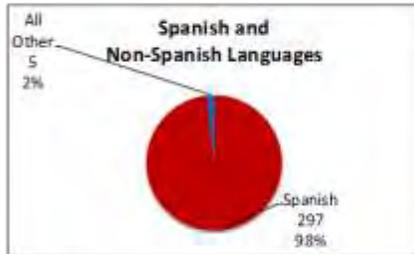
Eleventh Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year



Twelfth Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

	Banner	Box Butte	Cheyenne	Dawes	Deuel	Garden	Grant	Kimball	Morrill	Scotts Bluff	Sheridan	Sioux	All Counties
Spanish		63	1	17	1			19	9	187			297
Sign										5			5
All		63	1	17	1			19	9	192			302

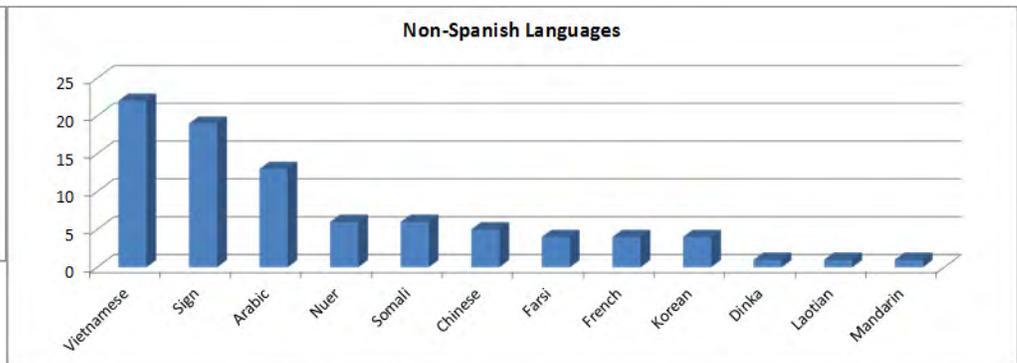
Twelfth Judicial District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year



Probation Matters By District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	N/A	All Districts
Spanish	97	48	181	922	95	46	119	0	133	9	49	10		1709
Vietnamese	1	1	11	6						3				22
Sign		12	1	3	1		1		1					19
Arabic			9	3					1					13
Nuer			6											6
Somali			2	1							3			6
Chinese			5											5
Farsi			4											4
French		1	2						1					4
Korean		4												4
Dinka				1										1
Laotian									1					1
Mandarin				1										1
All	98	66	221	937	96	46	120	0	137	12	52	10		1795

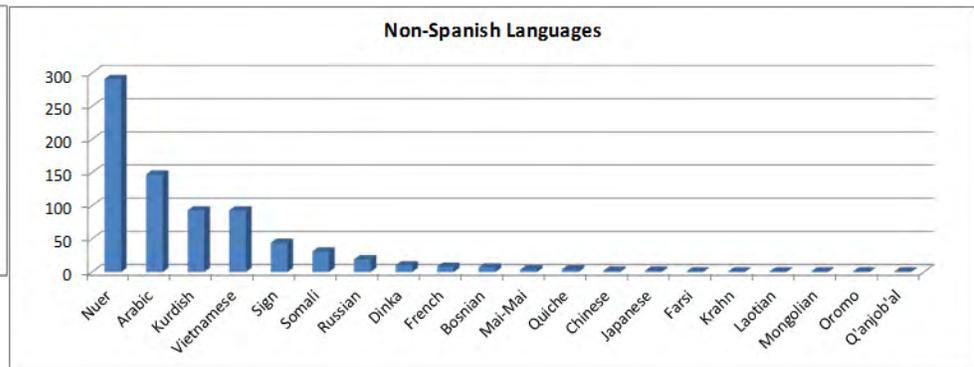
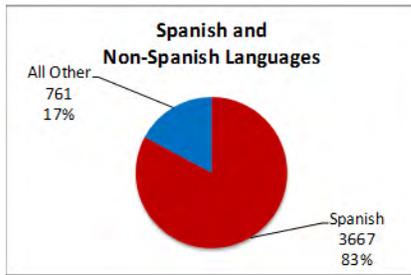
Probation Matters By District Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year



Juvenile Court Interpreter Usage By District and Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	N/A	All Districts
Spanish	24	294	375	2174	242	124	80		113	46	181	14		3667
Nuer	2	2	138	145			1		3					291
Arabic		2	109	26					10					147
Kurdish			93											93
Vietnamese			93											93
Sign		9	23	6	1		3		2					44
Somali				29					2					31
Russian			19											19
Dinka		2	6	1					1					10
French			1	7										8
Bosnian			7											7
Mai-Mai				4										4
Quiche						4								4
Chinese				2										2
Japanese									2					2
Farsi			1											1
Krahn				1										1
Laotian			1											1
Mongolian		1												1
Oromo				1										1
Q'anjob'al				1										1
All	26	310	866	2397	243	128	84	0	133	46	181	14		4428

Juvenile Court Interpreter Usage By District and Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year



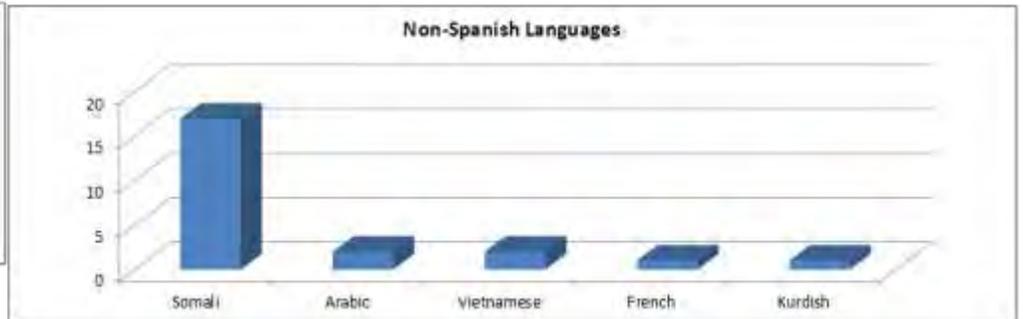
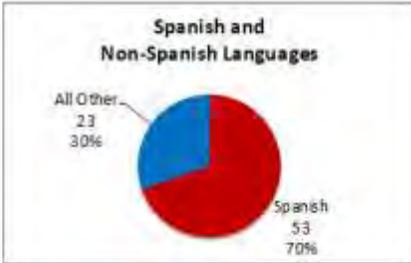
Worker's Compensation Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year*

* Based on Worker's Compensation Court Data

	All Districts
Spanish	53
Somali	17
Arabic	2
Vietnamese	2
French	1
Kurdish	1
All	76

Worker's Compensation Interpreter Usage By Language for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year*

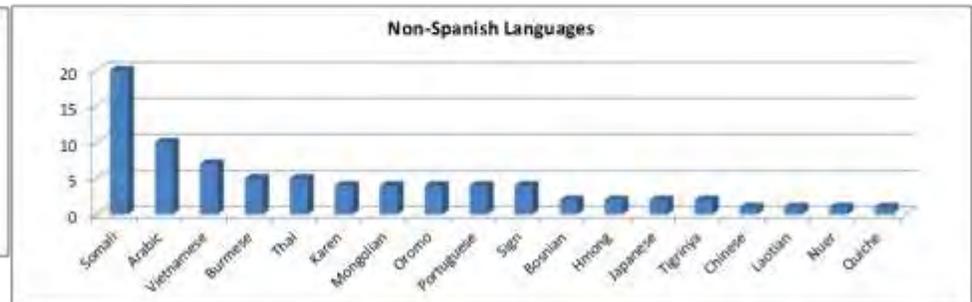
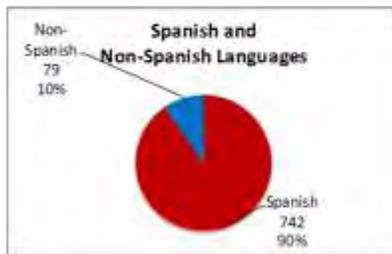
* Based on Worker's Compensation Court Data



Remote Interpreting by Judicial District for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	N/A	All Districts
Spanish	36	2	22	123	95	83	29	60	9	120	97	28	38	742
Somali				2	1	15			1		1			20
Arabic			2	1	1	5			1					10
Vietnamese		1		2		1					3			7
Burmese		5												5
Thai	4	1												5
Karen				1	3									4
Mongolian				4										4
Oromo					1	3								4
Portuguese				3						1				4
Sign								1		2			1	4
Bosnian					2									2
Hmong						2								2
Japanese									2					2
Tigrinya					2									2
Chinese									1					1
Laotian					1									1
Huer										1				1
Quiche						1								1
All	40	9	24	136	103	113	29	61	14	124	101	29	38	821

Remote Interpreting by Judicial District for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year



Interpreter Coordinators

Trial Court Services Offering Expanded Services for Courts with Interpreter Needs

Thursday, December 13, 2012

The Nebraska Supreme Court, through the State Court Administrator, has taken a much needed step forward in coordinating interpreter services for the state trial courts. The contracts of two highly experienced interpreters have been replaced with full-time positions in order to provide assistance with administrative functions. **Adriana Hinojosa**, Omaha, and **Raul Escobar**, Lincoln, will continue their Spanish interpreting for the courts in their respective cities. However, their expanded responsibilities will include assisting courts and probation offices across the state in locating interpreters for all language needs and arranging interpreters by video conferencing (Cisco Jabber) or by phone.

According to Trial Court Services Director, **Sheryl Connolly**, Nebraska's court interpreter needs outside Omaha and Lincoln historically were exclusively for the Spanish language. Now, Nebraska's small and midsize courts throughout the state require interpreters for Somali, Nuer, Urdu, Quiche and many other languages.

Nebraska's population of individuals who speak a language other than English in the home increased 242% from 1990 to 2010, according to the 2010 American Community Survey, which named Nebraska the fifth state in the country for immigrant and refugee expansion. This explosion of people limited in their proficiency in the English language is creating increasing challenges for court and probation offices seeking to meet the needs of those individuals.

In response, the Nebraska Supreme Court elected to replace part time contracts with the interpreter coordinator positions to meet the needs for both interpreting and administrative components.

Initial projects and priorities for the newly developed positions include:

1. Helping courts across the state identify and schedule interpreters in needed languages. Coordinators will also be compiling an expanded list of interpreters for languages not currently listed on the Judicial Branch Website.
2. Recruiting, mentoring and helping to develop education and support for interpreters in all languages for which certified or provisionally-certified interpreters are not currently available. In 2013, priority languages for support development include Arabic, Somali, Nuer, and Vietnamese, which are among the top ten language needs in Nebraska courts. Certified interpreters are currently available in Spanish, American Sign Language, Mandarin Chinese and Russian.

The goal of this effort is to provide trained court interpreters for services in Nebraska courts.

Courts and probation officers can contact the Interpreter coordinators by e-mailing NSC.Interpreters@nebraska.gov or calling Adriana at (402) 250-0041 or Raul at (402) 440-9989.

On-Call Interpreter Program

Information presented to judges and court staff regarding the On-Call Interpreter Program during a webinar on March 19, 2013.

On-Call Interpreter Update

- ▣ The On-Call Interpreter program which makes Certified Spanish interpreters available to you every working day is in its 3rd year.
- ▣ The program
 - expands access to certified Spanish interpreters,
 - Helps maintain a high standard of interpretation, and
 - Eliminates the expense of paid mileage and travel time.

What do you need?

- The on-call interpreters are now available 4 hours per day Monday through Thursday and 2 hours on Friday.
- Some courts and probation offices have expressed an interest in accessing on-call interpreters during other hours.
- Sometimes on-call interpreters are available before or after their scheduled shift. Contact them early to schedule a Jabber conference. If the on-call interpreter is not available e-mail luis.sanchez@nebraska.gov or contact another Spanish certified interpreter for Jabber services.
- Let us know if you would regularly use on-call interpreters during expanded/different hours. We want to make certified Spanish interpreters available for you.

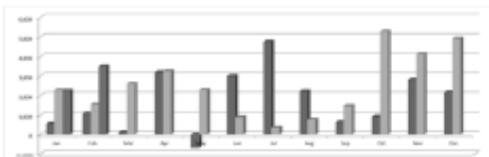
Translations

- ▣ The on-call interpreter program has expanded into translation of forms and documents. Contact Sheryl Connolly if you have translation needs.

On Call Interpreters

- Luis Sanchez
- Luis.sanchez@nebraska.gov
- (308) 760-3486

Thanks to you, the on-call program saved \$100,000 in interpreter travel since the program began!



On-call interpreters

Jan 2014 (Mountain Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 No service	29 10am - Luis Sanchez 2pm - Luis Sanchez	30 10am - Dale Taylor 2pm - Vladimir	31 New Year's	1 10am - Natalie 2pm - Natalie	2 10am - Lilia Ojeda 2pm - No Service	3 No service
4 No service	5 10am - Constanza 2pm - Constanza	6 10am - Natalie 2pm - Natalie	7 10am - Natalie 2pm - Natalie	8 10am - Natalie 2pm - Natalie	9 10am - Lilia Ojeda 2pm - No Service	10 No service
11 No service	12 10am - Luis Sanchez 2pm - Constanza	13 10am - Dale Taylor 2pm - Dale Taylor	14 10am - Luis Sanchez 2pm - Lilia Sanchez	15 10am - Constanza 2pm - Dale Taylor	16 10am - Lilia Ojeda 2pm - No Service	17 No service
18 No service	19 MLK Birthday	20 10am - Luis Sanchez 2pm - Lilia Sanchez	21 10am - Luis Sanchez 2pm - Lilia Sanchez	22 10am - Constanza 2pm - Lilia Sanchez	23 10am - Constanza 2pm - No Service	24 No service
25 No service	26 10am - Dale Taylor 2pm - Dale Taylor	27 10am - Luis Sanchez 2pm - Luis Sanchez	28 10am - Luis Sanchez 2pm - Luis Sanchez	29 10am - Luis Sanchez 2pm - Luis Sanchez	30 10am - Lilia Ojeda 2pm - No Service	31 No service

Language Line Quick Reference Guide

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



Language Line
services

Nebraska Supreme Courts

Keep this Quick Reference Guide (QRG) nearby for easy reference to effectively utilize Language Line® Over-the-phone Interpretation Service.

WHEN RECEIVING A CALL:

1. Use Conference Hold to place the limited English speaker on hold.
2. Dial: **1-877-245-0386**
3. Enter on your telephone keypad or provide the representative:
 - 6-digit Client ID: **535050**
 - Tell the operator your organization: **NEBRASKA SUPREME COURTS**
 - Tell the operator what language you need or Press 1 for Spanish
 - Press 2 for all other languages and speak the name of the language you need at the prompt
Please provide your personal code
An Interpreter will be connected to the call.
4. Brief the Interpreter. Summarize what you wish to accomplish and give any special instructions.
5. ADD THE limited-ENGLISH SPEAKER to the line.
6. Say "End of Call" to the Interpreter when the call is completed.

NOTE: When placing a call to a limited-English speaker, begin at Step 2. If you need assistance placing a call to a limited-English speaker, please inform the interpreter at the beginning of the call.

IMPORTANT TIPS:

UNKNOWN LANGUAGE – If you do not know which language to request, our representative will help you.

LINE QUALITY PROBLEMS – If you have problems before reaching a representative, press "0" to be transferred. If there is a sound quality problem, ask the representative to stay on the line to check for sound quality. If you have problems connecting to an Interpreter call Customer Service at 1-800-752-6096.

WORKING WITH AN INTERPRETER – Give the Interpreter specific questions to relay. Group your thoughts or questions to help conversation flow quickly.

LENGTH OF CALL – Expect interpreted comments to run a bit longer than English phrases. Interpreters convey meaning-for-meaning, not word-for-word. Concepts familiar to English speakers often require explanation or elaboration in other languages and cultures.

INTERPRETER IDENTIFICATION – Our Interpreters identify themselves by first name and number only. For reasons of confidentiality, they do not divulge either their full names or phone number.

DEMONSTRATION LINE – To hear a recorded demonstration of over-the-phone interpretation call our demonstration line at 1-800-996-8808 or visit our website at www.LanguageLine.com

DOCUMENT TRANSLATION – We also provide written translation services, for more information please [contact](mailto:translation@language.com) our Document Translation Department at 1-888-763-3364 or email translation@language.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE – To provide feedback, commend an Interpreter, or report any service concerns, call Customer Service at 1-800-752-6096.

Language Line Services • 1 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Bldg. 2 • Monterey, CA 93940

www.LanguageLine.com

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DC 6:4(4)	Praecipe for Summons w/ Instructions	Spanish, Vietnamese
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DC 6:5(2)	Financial Affidavit for Child Support w/ Instructions	Spanish, Vietnamese
DC 6:5(3)	Decree of Dissolution of Marriage - With Children w/ Instructions	Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese
DC 6:5(5)	Certificate of Completion of Parenting Education Course	Spanish
DC 6:5(6)	Parenting Plan, Parent-Created w/ Instructions	Arabic
DC 6:7	Instructions for In Forma Pauperis (Divorce)	Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese
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	Juvenile Information Packet Form	Spanish
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	Nebraska Probation Urine Abstinence Testing and Incidental Alcohol Exposure Contract	Spanish

Nebraska State Court Language Access Complaint Process

This form is provided for your convenience.

No particular form is required when filing a complaint. You may submit this form, a letter, or e-mail containing this information to:

Sheryl Connolly, Trial Court Services Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
Room 1213 State Capitol Building
P. O. Box 98910
Lincoln, NE 68509-8910
sheryl.connolly@nebraska.gov

Complaints against interpreters:

Nebraska Supreme Court Rule §6-708 governs the handling of complaints and disciplinary actions involving Nebraska state court interpreters.

Written complaints will be investigated and may be handled informally or scheduled for hearing before a committee to determine an appropriate response to the complaint.

Possible resolutions may include a written or oral reprimand, required education to correct or improve the quality of services or understanding of the ethics and role of the interpreter, or suspension of the interpreter's certification or registration by the Nebraska Supreme Court. See the court rule for more information.

Complaints against court or probation staff:

Complaints regarding failure of court or probation staff to provide an interpreter will be investigated and referred to their supervisor for education or disciplinary action where appropriate under the Nebraska Supreme Court Personnel Policies and Procedures.

You will receive confirmation of receipt of your complaint. Please do not hesitate to contact Sheryl Connolly, Trial Court Services Director, at sheryl.connolly@nebraska.gov (preferred) or call 402-471-2671 with any questions or comments regarding the complaint process.

We can communicate with you more quickly if a legible e-mail address is provided.

Complaints against judges must be filed with the Judicial Qualifications Commission:

<http://www.supremecourt.ne.gov/6093/judicial-qualifications-commission>

Nebraska State Court Language Access Complaint Form

I am filing a complaint against:

- An interpreter.

Interpreter's name: _____

- Court/Probation Staff.

Staff person's name: _____

Language(s) requested: _____/English

Date(s) of incident: _____

Court or probation office where the incident occurred (including city): _____

Case number(s) associated with the alleged incident(s) (if known) : _____

What is your complaint? Please be specific in describing your complaint by identifying what the interpreter or staff person did wrong and how, in your opinion, the situation should have been handled.

Please list all known witnesses' names, addresses, and phone numbers:

Signature

Date

Print your name

Phone number

Address

E-mail address (optional)*

City, State, Zip Code

Send complaint to: Sheryl Connolly, Trial Court Services Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
P.O. Box 98910
Lincoln, NE 68509-8910
sheryl.connolly@nebraska.gov

How to File a Judicial Grievance (Spanish/English)

How to File a Judicial Grievance - Cómo Presentar una Queja Judicial

The Disciplinary Process

El Proceso Disciplinario

Any Nebraska citizen may bring a complaint to the Nebraska Commission on Judicial Qualifications concerning the conduct or qualifications of any Nebraska state judge.

Cualquier ciudadano de Nebraska puede presentar una queja ante la Comisión de Calificaciones Judiciales de Nebraska relativas a la conducta o las calificaciones de cualquier juez del estado de Nebraska.

Upon the receipt of a complaint against any Nebraska state judge, the Commission may conduct a confidential inquiry or investigation as it determines is necessary.

Ante el recibo de una queja contra cualquier Juez del estado de Nebraska, la Comisión podrá llevar a cabo una investigación confidencial o una investigación tal como lo considere necesario.

If the Commission determines there is sufficient basis (“probable cause”) for disciplinary action, the Commission may either publicly reprimand the judge following a closed hearing; or may conduct a public hearing and make a specific discipline recommendation to the Nebraska Supreme Court, which reviews and makes an independent determination.

Si la Comisión determina que existen bases suficientes (“causa probable”) para una acción disciplinaria, la Comisión podrá amonestar públicamente al juez después de una audiencia a puerta cerrada o puede llevar a cabo una audiencia pública y hacer una recomendación disciplinaria específica a la Corte Suprema de Nebraska, que revisa y toma una determinación independiente.

A judge may be disciplined for (1) willful misconduct in office, (2) willful disregard of or failure to perform his or her duties, (3) habitual intemperance, (4) conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude, (5) disbarment as a member of the Nebraska legal profession, or (6) conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute.

Un juez puede ser disciplinado por (1) dolo en el cargo (2) ignorar o incumplir deliberadamente sus deberes (3) pérdida habitual del temperamento (4) haber sido condenado de un delito que implique turbidez moral (5) inhabilitación como miembro de la profesión legal en Nebraska (6) administrar justicia con prejuicio lo cual desacredita la oficina judicial.

A judge subject to discipline for the above reasons will receive a reprimand, discipline, censure, suspension without pay for up to six months, or will be removed from office. All such discipline is public.

Un juez sujeto a disciplina por las razones antes mencionadas recibirá una amonestación, disciplinación, censura, suspensión sin pago hasta por seis meses, o será destituido de su cargo. Toda esta disciplina es pública.

A judge with a permanent physical or mental disability which seriously interferes with the performance of duties may be subject to the Commission’s review and recommendation of disability retirement.

Un juez con una discapacidad física o mental permanente que interfiera seriamente con el desempeño de sus funciones podrá ser sometido a revisión de la Comisión y la recomendación de jubilación por incapacidad.

The Commissioners

Los miembros de la Comisión

The Nebraska Commission on Judicial Qualifications consists of the Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court, who also serves as its Chairperson; three judges appointed by the Chief Justice; three lawyers appointed by the Nebraska State Bar Association; and three citizens appointed by the Governor.

La Comisión de Calificaciones Judiciales de Nebraska está constituida por el Presidente del Tribunal Supremo de la Corte Suprema de Nebraska, quien también funge como su Presidente, tres jueces nombrados por el Presidente del Tribunal Supremo, tres abogados designados por el Colegio de Abogados del Estado de Nebraska, y tres ciudadanos nombrados por el Gobernador.

What the Commission Can and Cannot Do

Lo que la Comisión puede y no puede hacer

The Commission's power to investigate includes the authority to require a judge to undergo physical or mental medical examination, to subpoena witnesses and documents, to conduct inquiries and interviews, to hold hearings. Once its review is complete, the Commission's discipline authority is limited to public reprimand. The Commission does not have the authority to issue any other type of discipline, rather, it must recommend other sanctions to the Supreme Court, which can agree with the Commission's recommendation or impose a different discipline.

El poder de la Comisión para investigar incluye la autoridad para exigir de un Juez que se someta a un examen médico físico o mental, para llamar judicialmente a testigos y documentos, para llevar a cabo investigaciones y entrevistas, llevar a cabo audiencias. Una vez que se haya completado la investigación, la autoridad disciplinaria de la Comisión se limita a una reprimenda pública. La Comisión no tiene autoridad para emitir ningún otro tipo de disciplina, más bien deberá recomendar otras sanciones a la Corte Suprema, la cual podrá estar de acuerdo con la recomendación de la Comisión o imponer una disciplina

The Commission cannot take the place of an appeals process or change a judge's decisions or the outcome of a lawsuit. The Commission cannot reassign a case to another judge or give legal advice about whether a judge has made a correct ruling.

La Comisión no puede tomar el lugar de un proceso de apelación o cambiar las decisiones de un juez o el resultado de una demanda. La Comisión no puede reasignar un caso a otro juez o dar consejo legal sobre si un juez ha dictado una resolución correcta.

The Commission does not represent or provide advice to the person filing the complaint, but makes its determination based upon an independent review.

La Comisión no representa ni asesora a la persona que presenta la queja, pero hace su determinación basándose en una revisión independiente.

The Commission's authority is limited to sitting judges of the Nebraska State courts. It has no authority over federal judges, referees, lawyers or other court employees.

La autoridad de la Comisión se limita a los Jueces de los Tribunales del Estado de Nebraska. No tiene ninguna autoridad sobre Jueces Federales, árbitros, abogados u otros empleados del tribunal.

All of the Commission's filings, interviews, investigations and proceedings which take place prior to a formal open hearing remain confidential by law. Except in limited circumstances, the Commission cannot make any of these public.

Todos los documentos presentados por la Comisión, entrevistas, investigaciones y procesos ocurren previa a una audiencia pública formal, son confidenciales por ley. Excepto en circunstancias limitadas, la Comisión no puede liberar ninguno estos al público.

How to File a Complaint **Como presentar una queja**

Complaints must be in writing. No specific form is required but the complaint must include sufficient relevant information to allow the Commission to communicate with the person complaining and conduct a meaningful review. If you wish, you may use the Court's optional suggested complaint form. The complaint may be filed by sending it to the Commission secretary or to any of the Commissioners.

Las quejas deben presentarse por escrito. No se requiere ningún formulario específico, pero la denuncia debe incluir suficiente información relevante para permitir que la Comisión pueda comunicarse con la persona que se queja y llevar a cabo una revisión significativa. Si lo desea, puede usar el formulario sugerido por el Tribunal para presentar la queja. La queja puede ser presentada enviándola a la secretaria de la Comisión o a cualquiera de los Comisionados.

Secretary, Nebraska Commission on Judicial Qualifications
P.O. Box 98910
Lincoln, NE 68910
(402) 471-3730

NO PARTICULAR FORM NEED BE USED WHEN FILING A COMPLAINT. THE ATTACHED FORM IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE. YOU NEED NOT FILL IT OUT IF YOU DESIRE NOT TO AND MAY MAKE COMPLAINT BY SIMPLY SENDING A HANDWRITTEN LETTER TO THE COMMISSION OR ANY MEMBER THEREOF.

NO SE NECESITA NINGUN FORMULARIO EN PARTICULAR AL PRESENTAR UNA QUEJA. EL FORMULARIO ADJUNTO SE OFRECE PARA SU CONVENIENCIA. USTED NO TIENE QUE LLENARLO SI NO LO DESEA Y PUEDE PRESENTAR SU QUEJA SIMPLEMENTE ENVIANDO UNA CARTA MANUSCRITA A LA COMISIÓN O CUALQUIERA DE SUS MIEMBROS

**NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS
COMISIÓN DE CALIFICACIONES JUDICIALES DE NEBRASKA**

**Complaint or Request Form
Formulario para Queja o Solicitud**

**CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENCIAL**

TO : Commission on Judicial Qualifications
PARA : Comisión de Calificaciones Judiciales

FROM/ DE: _____

DATE/ FECHA: _____

Please consider this form to be: (select one)

Por favor, considere este formulario para que sea: (seleccione uno)

_____ **A complaint against a judge of the State of Nebraska regarding his or her acts, activities, or qualifications.**

Una queja contra un Juez del Estado de Nebraska con respecto a sus actos, actividades o calificaciones

_____ **A request that the Commission consider the qualifications of a judge of the State of Nebraska.**

Una solicitud de que la Comisión considere las cualificaciones de un juez del Estado de Nebraska

1. **Name of the Judge/ Nombre del Juez:** _____

2. **Name of Court/ Nombre del Tribunal:** _____

3. **City/ Ciudad:** _____

4. **Date of incident/ Fecha del incidente:** _____

5. **Time of incident/ Hora del incidente:** _____

(If not a specific incident, dates and times of the activity that cause the complaint or request.)

(Si no es un incidente específico, fechas y horas de la actividad que causan la queja o petición.)

6. Location of incident/ Lugar del incidente: _____

7. The information you provide in this statement should be based on facts and not on personal conjecture.

La información que proporcione en esta declaración debe basarse en hechos y no en conjeturas personales

This complaint or request is being filed against Judge _____ because:
Esta queja o solicitud está siendo presentada contra el juez _____ porque:

(Attach additional pages if necessary.)
(Adjunte páginas adicionales si es necesario).

8. Please list all known witnesses' names, addresses, and phone numbers:
Por favor escriba los nombres de todos los testigos conocidos, domicilios y números de teléfono

Dated this/ Fechado este _____ day of/ día de _____, _____.

Signature/ Firma: _____

Type or Print Full Name _____
Escriba o imprima su nombre completo

Street Address/ Domicilio _____

City, State, Zip/ Ciudad, Estado, Código Postal _____

Office Phone/ Telefono de la oficina: _____
Home/ casa: _____

ANY OTHER PERSON DESIRING TO SIGN THIS COMPLAINT OR REQUEST SHOULD ATTACH A SIGNATURE BLOCK SIMILAR TO THE ABOVE FORMAT.

CUALQUIER OTRA PERSONA QUE DESEE FIRMAR ESTA QUEJA O SOLICITUD DEBE ADJUNTAR SU FIRMA USANDO EL FORMATO DE ARRIBA.

Please mail in an envelope marked CONFIDENTIAL to:
Favor de enviar en un sobre marcado CONFIDENCIAL a:

Commission on Judicial Qualifications
ATTN: Secretary
Nebraska Supreme Court
P.O. Box 98910
Lincoln, NE 68509

The Commission on Judicial Qualifications shall follow the provisions of Nebraska Revised Statutes, Sections 24-715 through 24-728, in the disposition of this complaint or request.

La Comisión de Calificaciones Judiciales se ajustará a las disposiciones de los estatutos revisados de Nebraska, Secciones 24-715 a 24-728, en la disposición de la queja o petición.