September 16, 2025

September is Deaf Awareness Month! Key goals for the month include increasing visibility, promoting inclusion, educating the public, and supporting Deaf organizations. Amy Prenda, the Deputy Administrator for Court Services and ADA Coordinator, and I recently met with the new executive director of the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NCDHH). It was a great introductory meeting, and we are excited at the collaboration possibilities that exist between our agencies. If you are available the morning of Tuesday, September 23rd, I encourage you to attend NCDHH's coffee and community events in Kearney, Lincoln, Omaha, and Scottsbluff – you'll even learn a few signs! Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Interpreter Certification Pathway

The Nebraska Judicial Branch hosted one of its largest Language Access Orientations yet on August 25–26. The event brought together a vibrant group of participants who truly reflected the communities served every day in Nebraska's courts and probation offices. With their dedication and skills, these interpreters—both current partners and those just beginning their journey—will play a vital role in ensuring access to justice. Together, this group showcased the diversity of Nebraska's communities and the growing strength of its interpreter network. Highlights from the event:

- 32 attendees joined, a mix of experienced interpreters and newcomers eager to contribute.

- 12 languages were represented, including Arabic, Dari, French, Gujarati, Hindi, Kurdish, Nuer, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Turkish, and Ukrainian.

- 9 Nebraska counties were represented: Chase, Dakota, Dawson, Dodge, Douglas, Hall, Lancaster, Platte, and Sarpy.

Interpreter Statements

Interpreter partners should submit only 1 email that contains all Statements and supporting documents. Don't know how to do this? Email Admin.LanguageAccessStatements@nejudicial.gov for assistance!

Legislative Bill 80 Protection Orders *(courtesy of Valorie Bendixen, Trial Court Services Director for DC)*

LB 80 has created The Protection Order Act. The Act becomes effective on September 3, 2025. There are a few big changes. Judges, at their discretion, may grant a protection order, (any type) for a minimum period of one year and up to a maximum of two years. All three types of protection orders may now be renewed. The renewal period is for one year.

LB80 also created amendments to the Landlord Tennat Act. A tenant who has been a victim of domestic violence perpetrated by a cotenant may ask that the cotenant be removed from the lease/rental agreement and have them excluded from the residence.

Legislative Bill 530 *(courtesy of Sarah Fowler, Trial Court Services Director for County Court)*

LB530 increases the fines for speeding violations based on the extent to which a driver exceeds the authorized speed limit. The updated fine structure is as follows:

- $50 for speeding 1–5 mph over the limit (previously $10),
- $75 for speeding 6–10 mph over the limit (previously $25),
- $125 for speeding 11–15 mph over the limit (previously $75),

- $200 for speeding 16–20 mph over the limit (previously $125),
- $300 for speeding 21–35 mph over the limit (previously $200),
- $400 for speeding more than 35 mph over the limit (previously $300).

Additionally, all fines are doubled if the speeding occurs within a school zone or construction zone, reinforcing the importance of safety in these high-risk areas.

NATI Conference
The conference was a great success, drawing strong participation from across the state. The sessions were dynamic and thought-provoking, sparking meaningful discussions and new ideas. For many of us who have worked together for years, meeting in person for the first time strengthened our connections and reinforced the value of our statewide network.

The Language Access Program facilitated August De La Mora's attendance at the conference where he gave sessions on ethics and simultaneous interpretation as well as Saturday's keynote address which he received a standing ovation for.

Probation Allocation
The majority of Problem-Solving Courts (PSCs) are a function of Probation and need to be labeled as such on Interpreter Statements for allocation purposes.

Judicial District	Problem-Solving Courts (PSCs)	Marked as Court or Probation on Interpreter Statement?
All	PSC participant's weekly check-in with DC Judge	Court
1	SE Nebraska Adult Drug Court	Probation
2	Sarpy & Cass Adult Drug Court	Probation
2	Sarpy Reentry Court	Probation
2	Sarpy Juvenile Treatment Court	Probation
2	Sarpy Wellness Court	Probation
2	Veterans Treatment Court	Probation
3	Lancaster Adult Drug Court (effective 8/1/25)	Probation
3	Lancaster Veterans Treatment Court	Probation
3	Lancaster Family Treatment Court	Probation

3	Lancaster Safe and Healthy Families Court	Probation
3	Lancaster DUI Court	Probation
4	Douglas Veterans Treatment Court	Probation
4	Douglas Young Adults Court	Probation
4	Douglas Adult Drug Court	Court
5	Problem Solving Court	Probation
6	Adult Drug Court	Probation
7	Northeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court	Probation
8	North Problem-Solving Court	Probation
8	South Problem-Solving Court	Probation
9	Central (Adams/Hastings) Nebraska Adult Drug Court	Probation
10	Central Nebraska Veterans Treatment Court	Probation
10	Central Nebraska Adult Drug Court	Probation
11	Midwest Nebraska Problem Solving Court	Probation
12	Scotts Bluff Drug and DUI Court	Probation

Professional Resources

- American Translator's Association conference
- Black's Law Dictionary on-line
- Oregon Judicial Branch Oral Exam Prep Essentials
- The Wisconsin Court Interpreter Program will offer a webinar entitled "For the Record: Presenting Issues to the Court Effectively" presented by Carla Mathers, author, attorney, and American Sign Language interpreter. Please visit our e-payments site and select "Webinar with Carla Mathers" https://www.wicourts.gov/services/payment/paymentcip.htm

Recognitions

- Work anniversaries: **Amiel** 8/28, **Olivia** 9/1/, and **Kathleen** 9/22

- Thank you, **Dale Taylor**! You don't know how helpful it is to be able to use my 'get out of **Dale** free card!!' I appreciate your help when I'm scrambling for coverage. *– Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator*

- **Maria Reutlinger, Irma Watt, Manuel Olivo, Ben Hammar and Dale Taylor,** I want to thank each one of you for helping out with translations and proofreading. *– Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator*

- **Perla Alarcon-Flory** always has her statements completely and correctly filled out each month. Perla takes the time to type out her entries and submits all of her supporting documents in order. By doing this, it streamlines the process for me to process her monthly statements and ensures her statements get over to the finance office on time for payroll.*- Robin Baer, AOCP Administrative Assistant*

- **Manuel, Vladimir and Dale** recently partnered for a lengthy trial with difficult subject matter and graphic exhibits. They remained composed and professional while providing excellent Language Access to Justice. *- Kari Corkle, Justice Language Access Coordinator*

- I want to take a moment to recognize and thank our team—**Amiel, Kari, Olivia, and Kathleen**—for always being there, ready to help and support. Whether it's those last-minute calls for help, messages asking for contact info when I'm tied up and can't get to my computer or making calls and sending emails to check interpreter availability, you're always willing to go the extra mile. I truly appreciate everything you do, and I'm lucky to have you on the team! *- Adrian Hinojosa | Justice Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*

- I would like to thank **each of the interpreters** that joined me for lunch on August 13th. It is very rare that we are able to get together in a large group and spend time simply enjoying each other's company. *- Kari Corkle, Justice Language Access Coordinator*

- **Sarah Sosa's** statements are so neat and clean which makes them extremely easy to read. She makes sure all signatures are legible and has her supporting documents labeled and in order as she has multiple. By labeling her supporting documents, it allows her to confirm she has all the information she needs to submit. Documentation labeling also allows me to quickly match up the document with the entry ensuring a speedy process and timely payment. *- Robin Baer, AOCP Administrative Assistant*

- **Alex Perez** has been very helpful in educating courts on the request process. Thank you, Alex! *- Kari Corkle, Justice Language Access Coordinator*

- I overheard **Robin Baer** on the phone with an interpreter partner, and I was very impressed at how customer service oriented she was! *– Amy Prenda, Deputy Administrator for Court Services*

- Could also relay my appreciation of **Daniel Leong**, for being flexible… *Officer Shawn Schneider, District 3A Probation*

- Just wanted to let you know that the interpreters **(Manuel, Vlad and Dale)** this week did a fantastic job!!! Thank you for lining everything up! *- Amber Martin, Bailiff, Lancaster County District Court*

- Thank you, **Nick Nersesian**, for your willingness to cover cases on last minute notice for Sarpy and Cass Counties.   Your prompt response and willingness to accommodate the court calendar is appreciated. *- Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*

Did you know?

We have a celebrity in our midst – Dale Taylor! He filmed a documentary a few years ago which he shared with a small group of us recently. It was fascinating and he's graciously given permission to share it with our larger group! Dale writes, "The documentary '8000 Miles With Dad' was to honor my parents, Royal and Joan Taylor, who had passed away and we didn't know what to do with their ashes. So Jay, my son, suggested we take them back to Brazil and leave them in the same area where they had met, married, and raised a family, and would have wanted to die and be buried, had they had a choice in the matter. All

the music in the film originated with my daughter, Crystal, and it was sung by her and her sister, Melissa, both born in Mexico." You can watch the full movie on [YouTube](#).