

April 15, 2026

Interpreting in many ways mirrors the season of spring—a time of renewal, growth, and new beginnings. Just as spring brings fresh starts, interpreters help ensure that individuals with limited English proficiency are given a fair opportunity to be heard and understood, often at pivotal moments that can shape the course of their lives. Their work supports clarity where there may otherwise be confusion, much like spring brings light and energy after a long winter. Behind the scenes, interpreters are constantly developing their skills, expanding vocabulary, and refining their craft—much like the steady, unseen growth that defines the season. In this way, interpreting reflects the spirit of spring: quiet but essential progress that fosters understanding, access, and the possibility of moving forward.

Upcoming State Holidays

The Nebraska Judicial Branch will be closed in observance of:

- Arbor Day Friday April 24th
- Memorial Day Monday May 25th

Creighton World Languages Career Fair

Olivia Brockman and I attended Creighton University’s World Languages Career Fair, hosted by the Modern Languages and Literatures Department. The event highlighted organizations that value multilingual skills, with the goal of demonstrating how world language competency can strengthen students’ career opportunities. Given the Nebraska Judicial Branch’s frequent interactions with Limited English Proficient individuals across all points of contact, the career fair provided a valuable opportunity to connect with Creighton undergraduate and graduate students and promote careers within the Judicial Branch, including potential roles as employees and interpreter partners.



Early Arrival Standard Operating Procedure

We’re seeing great results from YOU our interpreter partners arriving early to assignments! This simple action helps prevent delays, supports efficient court and probation operations, and enhances public perception of the Nebraska Judicial Branch.

Interpreters are working during those 15 minutes introducing themselves to courtroom and probation staff; confirming expectations regarding positioning—particularly important for Deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals; setting up and testing equipment; troubleshooting video connections; reviewing case information; and at the direction of the court being available to assist attorneys and perform any other requests if so directed.

Due to the overwhelming success, a 15-minute early arrival is now a standard operating procedure.

Things to know:

- Applies to both in person and remote assignments.

- Applies to both court and probation assignments, including trials.
- The two-hour compensation minimum begins at the interpreter's arrival.
- If an assignment concludes before reaching two hours from the scheduled start time, the interpreter will still be compensated for a minimum of two hours.
- If an assignment extends to two hours beyond the scheduled start time (not the interpreter's arrival time), compensation will be adjusted to 2.25 hours.

Interpreter Fee Schedule and Payment Policy Changes







Language Access service volume continues to grow significantly, but the current infrastructure used to process interpreter payments has not kept pace with this increased demand. Effective July 1, 2026, the Interpreter Fee Schedule and Payment Policy will change. The amended policy can be found by clicking [HERE](#). The changes are designed to streamline workflow, strengthen administrative consistency, and provide the structure required to meet both statutory payment timelines and operational expectations. Key Updates to the Interpreter Fee Schedule and Payment Policy:

- Changes to Monthly Processing Deadlines
 - The submission deadline for Interpreter Statements is moved from the 7th of the month to the 5th.
 - The compensation issuance date will shift from the 20th to the 25th of the month.
- Reduction of Statement Submission Window from 6 Months to 60 Days
 - Interpreters will now be required to submit Statements within 60 days of the date of service.


Professional Resources


- [Practical Strategies for Ethical Language Access Advocacy](#) FREE April 22, 11:30 am-12:30 pm ET


Recognitions


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Gulie Khalaf and **Benn Rocha** are both very mindful about not stepping out of their roles even when pressured by probation officers or attorneys. Thank you for providing a united front and helping us prevent scope creep! - *Kari Corkle, Language Access Coordinator*
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Sunkist Judson is always willing to squeeze anything he can into his reserved time. Thank you, Sunkist! - *Kari Corkle, Language Access Coordinator*
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 Judge Mellor would like you to know what a great job Mr. **Karwan Jabbar** did today. It was a long and tough hearing, and he did fabulous! - *Sheri Lampe, Bailiff, Lancaster District Court*
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Yadu Sapkota was great! He was on time, did great. - *Dedra Little, Bailiff, Lancaster District Court*
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 The judge and attorneys are so impressed with **Ben Hammer**. - *Tina DeVoe, Clerk of District Court, Keith County*
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Kari Corkle, huge shoutout to you for always doing everything you can to help us do our work as smoothly as possible. Whenever we need information on a case or anything else to help us do our jobs, you are always timely, responsive, and ready to help. Your support truly makes a difference

and helps take away so much of the stress. You are so appreciated. - *Gulie Khalaf, Kurdish & Arabic Interpreter*


 We appreciate you **Perla Alarcon-Flory**! Always good to see your smiling face. – *Lisa Hunzeker, Clerk Magistrate, Johnson County*

 Thank you, **Kari Corkle**, for all your time and dedication to create the forms. I admire your tech knowledge. – *Olivia Brockman, Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*

 **Adrian Hinojosa, Amiel Armijo & Kari Corkle** – Zoom Simultaneous Interpretation has become a project! Thanks to all of you for the testing meetings and to the Interpreters that jumped in to help us do all the testing. THANK YOU!! – *Olivia Brockman, Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*

 Good afternoon **Amiel Armijo**! I would like to express my gratitude for your prompt assistance in arranging interpreters for our court hearings this morning. Your timely assistance helped maintain the court's efficiency. Many people benefited from you helping us today. Denise, in my office, has many good things to say about you. I would also like the interpreters that filled in to be commended for putting themselves out to help. Thanks again. – *Judith Wegner, Dodge District Court Clerk.*

 Many, many, thank you's, **Manuel Olivo and Tirzah Corbin**, for assisting remotely on such short notice!! – *Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator*

 We appreciate all the help **Kari Corkle** gave us with this case! It was a learning experience for all of us! - *Judge Paine, Red Willow County Court*

UNK Student Shadowing

For approximately the past six years, students from the University of Nebraska at Kearney's Translation and Interpretation program have participated in interpreter shadowing opportunities within the Nebraska Judicial Branch. As Professor Angela Monterrosa shared, "I hope you know how much we appreciate all of the interpreters and their willingness to share their knowledge and expertise with us." Students have observed proceedings both in person in Buffalo, Hall, and Adams Counties, and remotely via Zoom in Douglas County. Their experiences have included a wide range of hearings—such as arraignments, small claims, sentencings, and preliminary hearings—covering matters from DUIs and drug possession to felony assault and traffic offenses.

What has left the greatest impression on students is the exceptional skill and professionalism of the interpreters. They consistently note the interpreters' speed, precision, and command of language, including their ability to navigate regional variations seamlessly. Students are particularly struck by the confidence interpreters demonstrate when entering courtrooms without prior knowledge of the cases, as well as the significant preparation and self-motivation required behind the scenes. Overall, the experience has given students a deep appreciation for the expertise, composure, and professionalism required to succeed in this field.

Did you know?

“Winner, winner, chicken dinner” is a celebratory phrase used to announce a victory or success, originating from gambling culture during the Great Depression.