

December 11, 2025

As we wrap up 2025, I want to share my heartfelt appreciation for everything each of you has contributed this year. Together, we celebrated so many meaningful accomplishments—our First Annual Interpreter Conference, growing participation in every step of the Interpreter Certification Pathway, our first certified interpreter since 2016, new Lending Libraries in our four offices, and transitioning to an annual CEU requirement.

Thank you for the spirit, commitment, and care you bring to your work every day. You make a real difference in the Nebraska Judicial Branch and in the lives of the people we serve. I'm excited for all we'll continue to build together in 2026.

Upcoming State Holidays

- December 25th Christmas Day
- January 1st New Year's Day
- January 19th Martin Luther

2025 CEUS

Continuing education is required by the Nebraska Judicial Branch to ensure that certified, provisionally certified, and registered interpreters maintain and improve their interpreting skills. [Annual Interpreter Continuing Education Compliance Form](#) for January 1, 2025- December 31, 2025, **are due no later than February 1, 2026**. Annual CEU submission is a condition to remain on the Statewide Register of Interpreters. A big thank you to those interpreters who have already submitted their forms – way to be on top of it!!

- Foreign language interpreters shall complete and report 5 credit hours of approved continuing education every year. At least 2 continuing education hours must be earned in professional responsibility.
- Every certified Sign Language and CDI must complete and report the RID required 20 contact hours with the minimum of 15 hours in Professional Studies.
- Every non-certified Sign Language and DI must complete and report the NCDHH required 12 clock hours with a minimum of 9 hours in Professional Studies and 1.5 hours in interpreter ethics

Heartland Workers Center Christmas Adopt-A-Family Update *(courtesy of Adrian Hinojosa)*

The December 7th Heartland Workers Center Christmas "Adopt a Family" event was a wonderful success. Thanks to your kindness and generosity, the Language Access Program was able to adopt **13 families** this year. Because of your support, many families in our community were able to experience joy this holiday season.

Your kindness went beyond gifts- it created memories, lifted spirits, and reminded families that they are not alone. Every contribution, big or small, made a meaningful difference.

Thank you very much. Together, we showed what compassion and community can achieve.












Interpreter Statements


- All remote appearance confirmations are to be numbered for ease of processing.
- Please review and learn from any corrections made to your Interpreter Statement.


Professional Resources


- NAJIT Academy Ethics Webinar: [To Omit or Not to Omit? It Depends](#) Tuesday, December 16th FREE (\$20 suggested donation)
- [Annual Report Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts & Probation FY25](#)
- [Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024 Juvenile Probation Services Division](#)
- [Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024 Office of Dispute Resolution](#)


Recognitions


-  **Adrian Hinojosa** work anniversary 12/3
-  **Anabelle Paghiligan-Wall** has excellent communication skills and is very organized. I never have to worry about confusion when sending multiple emails regarding various cases and continuances. Much appreciated, Anabelle! - *Kari Corkle, Language Access Coordinator*
-  Thanks to eagle-eyed **Alex Perez** for spotting a misspelling on a document and bringing it to my attention so it could be corrected. Thanks, Alex – I appreciate your commitment to excellence! - *Kathleen Valle, Language Access Program Director*
-  **Manny Olivo** was interpreting the assault trial last week and the witness on the stand was asked something like "why did she wait so long to file charges" and the witness answered, "she was triggered". That "triggered" has created a lot of interesting conversations! – *Carmen Novoa Registered Spanish interpreter*
-  **Jale Bryant** did a wonderful job. We appreciate her help. - *Chelsei Sparks, Clerk Magistrate, Cheyenne County Court*
-  **Adrian Hinojosa** is always clear, on top of everything, schedules, answering questions, and interpreting himself- the man, the myth, the legend- a pleasure to work with in every sense! He has also created a really wonderful community of interpreters. There is a real feel of collaboration not just between interpreters of all languages but between the county coordinators as well. – *Carmen Novoa Registered Spanish interpreter*
-  Yes! **Estella Abuelsheikh** was great! I would like to use her again next month. Thank you! - *Officer Elvis Acic, District 3J Probation*
-  Thank you, **Perla Alarcon-Flory**, for your prompt responses to request and for keeping me informed of hearing updates. - *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*
-  We love **Ben Hammar**! - *Amy Bellew, Courtroom Clerk, Lincoln CC*
-  Thank you, **Kiki Koute** for your willingness to work with the court schedule to cover hearings. - *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*
-  **Salim Merza** helped me immensely with this PSI interview today. - *Officer Summer Zerr, District 11 Probation*


 **Interpreters**, Wishing you and your Families “Happy Holidays”. - *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*


 **Keak Kierkok** is so mindful about passing along pertinent updates in a timely manner. Thank you Keak- *Kari Corkle, Language Access Coordinator*


 Excellent job **Maria Reutlinger** numbering your remote appearance confirmations – this is so helpful! - *Kathleen Valle, Language Access Program Director*

 **Stacey Con** is always communicating updates and is happy to fill downtime on blocks with Zoom. Thank you, Stacey! - *Kari Corkle, Language Access Coordinator*

 **Irma Watt** is always willing to hop on for last-minute needs in other counties during downtime on her blocks. Thank you, Irma! - *Kari Corkle, Language Access Coordinator*

 **Amiel Armijo** always does a wonderful job covering my busy districts when I’m away. Thank you, Amiel! - *Kari Corkle, Language Access Coordinator*

 **Ben Hammar** is such a team player and is always willing to pitch in wherever needed. Thank you, Ben! - *Kari Corkle, Language Access Coordinator*

 **Maria Reutlinger** is always good about relaying status updates and is mindful about not letting any courtroom cause delays elsewhere. Thank you, Maria! - *Kari Corkle, Language Access Coordinator*

Remote Hearings

When interpreting in a remote video assignment, interpreters are to have their display name as first name, last name, the word interpreter, and language (see example below).

Example: John Doe Interpreter Kinyarwanda

This ensures the correct spelling of the interpreter’s name for the court record and allows staff to quickly identify the individuals they need to let into the hearing.

Tax Documents

State Accounting will mail out the 1099s by January 31st. The minimum amount an individual needs to earn to receive a 1099 is \$600. If you have questions or do not receive your 1099 by the beginning of February, you can reach State Accounting directly at (402)471-2581.

Thankful for 3J *(courtesy of Kari Corkle)*

The interpreters and I are so grateful to 3J probation for giving us a home for the last several years so, as a small token of our gratitude, we set up a table of cookies, soda and fidget toys for the staff to enjoy. Everyone was really excited and touched by the gesture. I'm not sure if they enjoyed the stickers and toys or the cookies and soda more!



Did you know?

Iceland has a beautiful Christmas tradition called Jólabókaflóð (pronounced *yo-la-boke-a-flothe*) or “the Christmas Book Flood,” where families exchange books on Christmas Eve and spend the night cozying up to read them, often with hot chocolate in hand.

Born after WWII, when paper was one of the few imports available, it evolved into a nationwide celebration of storytelling and togetherness. Today, every household still receives a catalog of new book releases each November, choosing the perfect read to gift. It’s a simple, joyful reminder that one of the best presents you can give or receive is the chance to slow down, unplug, and get lost in a great book.

