

March 31, 2026

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.

Upcoming State Holidays

- April 24th Arbor Day

2nd Annual Interpreter Conference

Register now for our 2nd annual interpreter conference to take place Friday, April 24th (Arbor Day) from 9am – 4pm on the BoysTown campus (14100 Crawford St. Omaha, NE 68010). Just like last year we will have both in-person and streaming options. The day will include lunch, CEU sessions, and mingling with your colleagues! **Registration deadline is April 9th**

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.

American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter Expansion

The Language Access Program is pleased to welcome three new American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters to our statewide register, an important step in strengthening access to justice for deaf and hard-of-hearing court and probation users. The addition of these skilled professionals increases our capacity to provide timely, qualified interpreting services across courtrooms and probation settings, helping to reduce delays and ensure effective communication at every stage of the legal process. Expanding our ASL resources not only supports compliance with language access requirements, but also reinforces the Judicial Branch's commitment to fairness, inclusion, and equal access for all Nebraskans.

Please introduce yourself to Summer Dykstra, Abby Giambattista, and Arthur Trexler when you see them and welcome them to the team.



Giambattista Dykstra

Language Access webpage tour

Here's a 10-minute tour of the Language Access webpage which was designed with you in mind!

Shareable link: https://nejudicial.gov.zoom.us/rec/share/1yjYay1ehaRCEkkYXyAHfQLu26D1YfHoqlxgpTwKys0fTRMI9WICAqMnFyzZK_ux.iPc8ByRrT7yUrO6G

Passcode: F29y8?r\$

Professional Resources

- [Building Bridges: Working in Mixed Sign and Spoken Language Interpreter Teams- ATA Interpreters Division](#)
- [Combined Glossary of Legal Terms Now Available | Nebraska Judicial Branch](#)
- National Center for Interpretation's [schedule of spring and summer webinars](#) is up! Here's a quick look at what we have scheduled prior to the start of the [2026 Court Interpreter Training Institute \(CITI\)](#) which will run May 18-June 26.
- [InterpretTrain Court Vocabulary Drills](#) Free and in Spanish!
- NAJIT [To-MAY-to, To-MAH-to: State Laws, State Lingo, and the Interpreter's Dilemma](#)

Recognitions

- 👏 Kudos to **Ashley Villanueva Enriquez** and **Manuel Olivo** for the excellent job they did on an all-day trial using Zoom's interpreting mode. One LEP attended from out of the country while the other was in the courtroom. Their teamwork and professionalism made the process run smoothly thank you very much I really appreciate all your support! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access interpreter coordinator*

- ✚ Like always, it was a pleasure working with **Monica Silva**. One of the attorneys called us the “Dynamic Duo”. - *Manuel Olivo, Certified Spanish Interpreter*

- ✚ I’d like to recognize and congratulate **Sunkist Judson** for his hard work and dedication to the team, and for getting closer to achieving his certification. Great job! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access interpreter coordinator*

- ✚ Thank you SO much **Kari Corkle** for your help. YOU ARE APPRECIATED! – *Nicole Wellensiek, Assistant Clerk Senior Johnson County Court*

- ✚ Thank you, **Star Judson**, for always helping with last-minute requests and stepping in to cover for Sunkist when needed. You are truly appreciated! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access interpreter coordinator*

- ✚ **Stacey Con** was a very good interpreter, and it was a pleasure to work with her. - *Officer Rick Andrews, District 12 Probation*

- ✚ **Carmen Novoa** is always willing to step up and help. She checks in before leaving to make sure everything is covered, and it’s always a pleasure to work with her. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access interpreter coordinator*

- ✚ Just wanted to let you know that the Portuguese interpreter we had today **Miryam Ingrassia** was fantastic! Our defendant was not pleasant at all, and she did amazing even with him being unruly. - *Catherine Nicholas, Courtroom Clerk, Lincoln County Court*

- ✚ **Al Villarreal** is always on time, attentive, and reliable—a team member we can always count on. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access interpreter coordinator*

- ✚ I just wanted to send an update on this case I shadowed in Saunders CC today. Let me begin by sharing how impressive this dynamic duo is! **Katrina Watton** and **Nichola Schmitz** met yesterday evening to prepare. Since Katrina was aware of the tech issues, she appeared well prepared with her own laptop, iPad and iPhone to offer FaceTime as a back-up for Zoom and/or Teams in a pinch. Thanks to Katrina’s problem solving and preparedness, the hearing went off without a hitch. – *Kari Corkle, Justice Language Access Coordinator*

- ✚ **Tara Trindle** is always ready to help, even at the last minute. A pleasure to work with—keep up the great work! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access interpreter coordinator*

- ✚ **Monica Silva, Cristina Kropf and Amiel Armijo**, thank you for your time and effort to complete the “equipment video”. Amiel, you did an outstanding job! – *Olivia Brockman Interpreter Coordinator*

- ✚ **Sixta Sass** provides excellent remote support, is very professional, and always takes our last-minute calls. We are very lucky to have her on our team—thank you, Sixta! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access interpreter coordinator*

-  I want to thank **Abdi Elmi** for being available and accepting short-notice requests. Your flexibility and willingness to help don't go unnoticed, and we really appreciate it! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access interpreter coordinator*
-  I want to recognize **Yadu Sapkota**, who makes sure all requests are covered and always double-checks that appointments and requests are sent to our team before accepting them. Thank you for being such a reliable team player! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access interpreter coordinator*
-  I also want to recognize **Martha Brester** for her willingness to help cover other blocks and handle last-minute translations. Thank you so much—your support helps the team make sure every angle is covered! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access interpreter coordinator.*
-  I want to give a big shout-out to our team **Amiel, Kari, and Olivia**, for their incredible support and dedication. Even when things get hectic, they always show up ready to help and find a way to get things done, often with very little time or space to work with. Their commitment, teamwork, and positive attitude make such a difference, and I feel really grateful to work with such a supportive group. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access interpreter coordinator*
-  I also want to recognize **Vladimir Bazan** for always being ready to cover, whether in person or remotely. We can count on him to jump into remote mode and help us out whenever needed! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access interpreter coordinator*

Shadowing

Interpreter partners are asked to route all shadowing requests through the Judicial Branch's Language Access Program to protect the integrity of court proceedings and ensure a consistent, professional experience for everyone involved. This process allows for proper vetting, ensures confidentiality requirements are understood, and confirms that appropriate permissions are in place before anyone enters a courtroom or probation setting. It also promotes fairness and consistency in how shadowing opportunities are offered, while helping the program support workforce development in a more structured and intentional way.

Work Comp Court

Per Neb. Rev. Stat. § 48-163(3) a link of the latest revision of the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court Rules of Procedure is provided below:

- <https://www.newcc.gov/resources/court-forms-and-publications/rules-of-procedure>.