

November 18, 2025

Dear Operations Team and Interpreter partners,

As we gather in gratitude this Thanksgiving, I want to extend my sincere appreciation for your service. Your skill and dedication ensure that every person who enters our courts and probation offices has access to justice and understanding. Thank you for the professionalism, compassion, and integrity you bring to your work each day.

I wish you and your families a peaceful and joyful Thanksgiving.

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 *(courtesy of Adrian Hinojosa)*

The Douglas County Interpreter Coordinator and our interpreting partners have supported low-income families over the past several years, helping make Christmas a little brighter for their children. Many of these children may not receive a single gift without this program, so every contribution—big or small—is deeply appreciated.

This year, the Douglas County team invites the entire Language Access community to join in! They have already adopted five families and are challenging other teams, groups, and individuals to adopt five more.

If you would like to participate, please email [Adrian](#) and let him know how you'd like to help. There are so many ways to join in!

Adopt an Entire Family

- Option 1: Deliver wrapped gifts to the Douglas County office by Wednesday, December 3rd, or
- Option 2: Notify [Adrian](#) by Monday, December 1st if you will deliver your gifts directly to the event on December 7th at 2:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Hall (5001 S 23rd St, Omaha).

Provide a Toy or Clothing Item for an Individual Child

- Option 1: Deliver wrapped gifts to the Douglas County office by Wednesday, December 3rd, or
- Option 2: Notify [Adrian](#) by Monday, December 1st if you will deliver gifts directly to the event on December 7th at 2:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Hall (5001 S 23rd St, Omaha).

Make a Financial Contribution

- Send contributions to [Adrian](#) via Cash App (\$ADHinojosa) by Wednesday, November 26th.

Important: If you purchase a toy that requires batteries, please include the appropriate battery type so the gift can be used right away by an excited kiddo!

Please contact [Adrian](#) with questions and let him know how you would like to participate! Thank you so much for your kindness, generosity, and continued support.

Family A

- Mom (\$30 in cash or gift card)
- 10 y/o (male) soccer gear, clothing, shoes

Family B

- Mom (\$30 in cash or gift card)
- 11 y/o (boy)
- 9 y/o (girl) size 10 clothing
- 1 y/o (boy) size 2 clothing

Family C

- Mom (\$30 in cash or gift card)
- Aranza 8 y/o underwear, toys, blankets
- Laura 5 y/o underwear, toys, blankets
- 8-month-old girl underwear, toys, blankets

Family D

- Mom (\$30 in cash or gift card)
- 14 y/o (boy) soccer gear, ball, socks
- 11 y/o (boy) Pokémon cards, size 12 clothing, size 14 jacket or t-shirts
- 9 y/o (boy) Pokémon cards, size 12 clothing, size 14 jacket or t-shirts
- 5 y/o (boy) Magnetico
- 1 y/o (boy) size 2 clothing

Family E

- Mom (\$30 in cash or gift card)
- 9 y/o (girl) clothes, makeup
- 6 y/o (boy) soccer gear, carts, Legos
- 3 y/o (girl) baby doll

Nebraska Latino Youth Summit 2025 *(courtesy of Adrian Hinojosa)*

I had the opportunity to participate as a panelist for *Grow Your Future: Diverse Careers in Nebraska*, representing the Judicial Branch's Language Access Program and the interpreting profession. During the panel, I highlighted the vital role that State Certified Court Interpreters play in ensuring access to justice and effective communication across our community. I shared my career path, the responsibilities of our profession, and the importance of maintaining high ethical and professional standards. The students were very engaged and asked thoughtful questions about certification, training, and the many career opportunities available in language access services. Overall, it was a meaningful experience and an

excellent opportunity to promote the value of qualified interpreters and to encourage young Latino students to consider this important career.

Professional Resources

- [Glossary Building for Translators and Interpreters](#) This language-neutral, 4-hour workshop teaches translators and interpreters how to build powerful, professional glossaries for any language pair. Learn time-saving terminology research strategies, get hands-on practice, and receive ready-to-use templates you'll use for years.
- [YOUR Nebraska Judicial Branch Podcast](#) Also available wherever you get your podcasts (Apple, Spotify, Amazon Music)

Recognitions

- ✚ **Keak Kierkok** was an amazing help as always! - *Officer Zach Peet, 3J Probation*
- ✚ Thank you, **Katrina Watton**, for sharing RID's foreign sign language list with me! As our state becomes more diverse, this is an invaluable tool! – *Kathleen Valle, LAP Director*
- ✚ Thank you, **Tara Trindle**, for your prompt responses to requests and for keeping me informed of hearing updates.- *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ **Star Judson** did an excellent job assisting me in having a difficult conversation with my client. - *Officer Anthony Coleman, 3A Probation*
- ✚ I'd like to recognize **our interpreters** for their professionalism and dedication. Their teamwork, reliability, and commitment to ***ethical standards*** ensure that every assignment runs smoothly and that the Courts and LEPs receive the best possible service. Thank you all for your continued dedication! — *Adrian D. Hinojosa, Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ We want to give kudos **to the interpreters who have been turning in their statements timely (or even before the cutoff!)** which gives us time to review, ask for clarifications, and process your statements correctly—this is a great help to us! Also, a big thank you to **Kathleen and Robin** and Language Access for info tracking and approvals, which helps us immensely! 😊 —*Stefany Wix and Jamie Gotdel in the Finance Office*
- ✚ **Keak Kierkok**, *I really appreciate how you handled a recent trial that was less than smooth going.* – *Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ Thank you **Myhanh Che** for your dedication and willingness to work with the court's schedule to cover hearings.- *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ **Palwasha Samadi's** assistance was invaluable in this process. - *Officer Summer Zerr, District 11 Probation*

✚ This week I had 15 different languages I used, spaced out throughout the week, but I want to thank each interpreter who provided their help. Thank you for representing the Branch so well. Vladimir Bazan, Irma Watt, Maria Reutlinger, Tara Trindle, Kathy Rocco, Shelly Hodges, Juana Diego, Caden Tait, Constanza Meier, Katrina Watton, Daniel Leong, Alex Perez, Shanti Pangestu, Selam Legesse, Salim Merza, Leserine Muritok, Tamni Sundling, Myhanh Che, Ralene Cheng, Abubakar Ibrahim, Barre Hassan, Bertilda Martin, A&A Language Services, and Trapaga Asociados. (This didn't include the requests I received and were cancelled late.) – Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator

Did you know?

The phrase "to those born with English on their tongue" is from the 1923 Supreme Court case [Meyer v. Nebraska](#), which protected the rights of parents and teachers to educate children in languages other than English. Justice McReynolds wrote in the opinion that the protection of the U.S. Constitution "extends to those who speak other languages as well as to those born with English on the tongue". The case struck down a Nebraska law that prohibited the teaching of foreign languages to young students, establishing that such a law was an unreasonable infringement on liberty.