

Contact your local court for more information:

10th Judicial Circuit  
Hardee, Highlands and Polk Counties

Call or email to schedule an interpreter for your case or have your attorney schedule one for you.

Court Interpreter's Office:

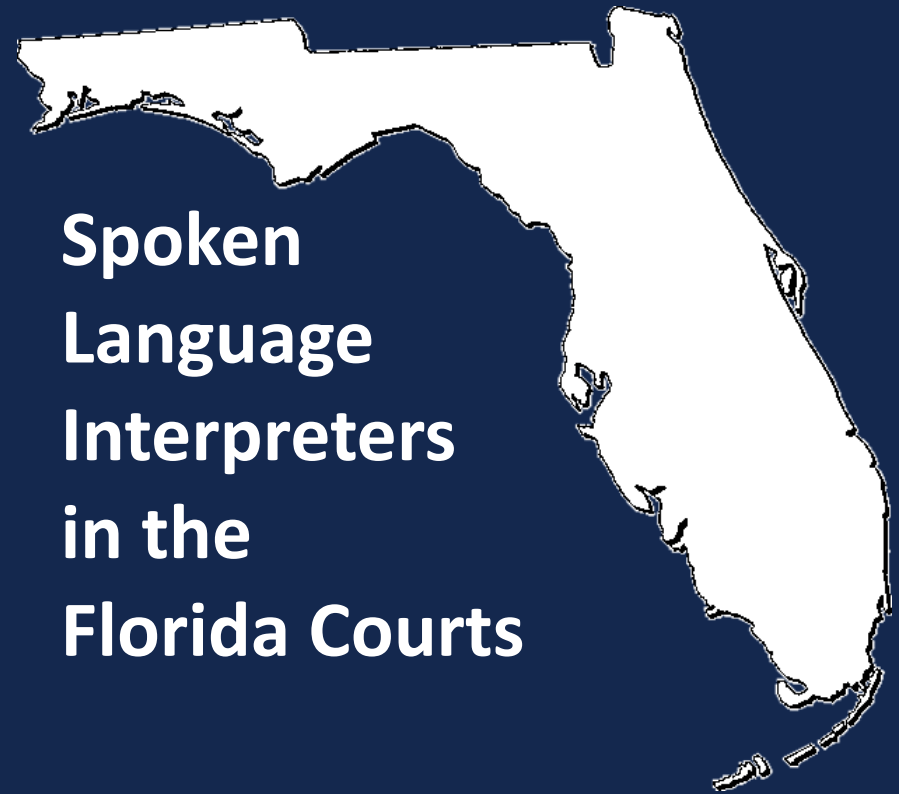
Phone: (863)-534-7700

Email: [CourtInterpreters@jud10.flcourts.org](mailto:CourtInterpreters@jud10.flcourts.org)



**Office of the State Courts Administrator**  
**Court Interpreter Certification and**  
**Regulation Program**

Supreme Court Building  
500 S. Duval Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1900



**Spoken**  
**Language**  
**Interpreters**  
**in the**  
**Florida Courts**

**Office of the State Courts Administrator**  
**Court Interpreter Certification and**  
**Regulation Program**

# Table of Contents

Do I need a court interpreter? ..... 1

Court Interpreters ..... 2

Access to Justice ..... 3

What does a court interpreter do? ..... 4

FAQ Court Interpreting Services ..... 5

# FAQ Court Interpreting Services

## **Will I need to hire my own interpreter if I am a limited-English-proficient (LEP) witness or victim?**



Qualified spoken language court interpreters will be appointed for:

- LEP witnesses when a judge determines it is necessary; and
- LEP victims in any juvenile delinquency, county criminal, or circuit criminal proceeding.

## **What if I am in a proceeding and no court interpreter is provided?**



Individuals involved in cases where a court interpreter is not provided must make arrangements for services themselves. If you have questions about interpreting services for your case, please contact your local court for more information.

## **How do I find an interpreter if one is not provided by the court?**



The Office of the State Courts Administrator maintains registries as a resource to locate qualified spoken language court interpreters registered in Florida. The registries can be found at:

**[www.flcourts.org/Resources-Services/Court-Services/Court-Interpreting/Find-an-Interpreter](http://www.flcourts.org/Resources-Services/Court-Services/Court-Interpreting/Find-an-Interpreter)**

# What does a court interpreter do?



## The court interpreter **WILL** do the following:

- help you to communicate with court participants, including your lawyer, court personnel, and the judge;
- interpret everything you say into English;
- interpret everything said in court into your native language; and
- interpret without adding, omitting, or changing anything.



## The court interpreter **WILL NOT** do the following:

- give you legal or any other advice;
- talk to you about your case;
- explain what words mean or what is happening in court;
- answer questions about the law or the legal process; or
- have private conversations with you or your family.

# Do I need a court interpreter?

## Why do I need a court interpreter?



Even if you speak English well in everyday situations, the legal language used in court cases can be difficult to understand. A court interpreter helps you communicate with the court in the language you are comfortable speaking.

## Who are court interpreters?



Professional court interpreters are specifically trained to interpret in court. A court interpreter:

- speaks English and your language with an educated, native-like mastery;
- knows legal terms in both languages; and
- understands the legal process.

## Where can I get a court interpreter?



Requests for spoken language court interpreters must be made with your local court.

If you have questions about interpreting services for your case, please contact your local court for more information:

<https://help.flcourts.org/Get-Started/The-Process-What-Happens-in-Court/Court-Interpreters>.



## Court Interpreters

### Florida Courts and Interpreters

Courts across Florida provide court interpreters in a variety of court matters. Qualified spoken language court interpreters will be appointed where a fundamental interest is at stake and the inability of individuals to understand or express themselves in English may prevent full and necessary participation in court proceedings.

Requests for spoken language court interpreters must be made with your local court. If you need an interpreter, please notify your attorney or local court as soon as possible.

## Access to Justice

### Due Process Rights

Each year, thousands of court cases in Florida require spoken language interpreters. The ability to communicate effectively in court is a basic right of all persons in the United States. Fundamental goals of court interpreting are to place those who use interpreting services on equal footing, within the court, with persons who do not require interpreting services; to comply with Florida and other federal laws; and to protect due process rights and fundamental interests.

