



This informational brochure was produced in accordance with the Judiciary of Guam's Strategic Plan to improve access to our courts and the delivery of court services.

You may visit the Judiciary of Guam's website at www.justice.gov.gu

Judiciary of Guam
120 W. O'Brien Drive
Hagatna, Guam 96932

RICHARD B. MARTINEZ

Clerk of Court

Telephone No. 475-3420

Email address:

dobbie@mail.justice.gov.gu

JESSICA C. CRUZ

Chief Deputy Clerk

Telephone No. 475-3340

Email Address:

jessicac@mail.justice.gov.gu

JUDICIARY OF GUAM



Superior Court of Guam

Clerk's Office, Courts & Ministerial Division

Interpreter Assistance Information



One Law, Many Languages

The Judiciary of Guam recognizes the need to improve access and services to the courts. The Superior Court of Guam currently provides interpreter services for language and sign for non-English speaking persons and those who are hearing impaired to insure that all parties can clearly understand proceedings and are able to participate in court programs and services the hearing impaired, in the following languages:

- Chamorro
- Tagalog
- Chuukese
- Palauan
- Yapese
- Chinese
- Japanese
- Vietnamese
- Korean
- Sign Language
- Pohnpeian
- Kosraen
- Marshallese

These language and sign services are provided in courtrooms, for attorney appointments and for counseling. They are also provided for witnesses or victims if needed. Services take place in and out of the courthouse. Interpreters for other languages may be available upon request.

Court interpreters are skilled professionals who fulfill an essential role in the administration of justice and in the protection of the 4th and 6th Amendment rights in criminal cases for sign and non-english speaking defendants. Court interpreters, in their capacity as officers of the Court, are bound to a professional code of ethics to ensure due process of the law. Court interpreters are responsible for interpreting court hearings, conducting interviews with clients to gain relevant information, and providing translation service for other court programs, such as translation of court documents, oratory and other written materials as needed. Interpreters interpret from the English language to the language used by the client, and interprets the client's answer back to the English language for the record. Interpretation is simultaneous.

Court interpreter services are not only for indigent defendants. They are utilized for victims and witnesses for various kinds of cases in and out of the courthouse. They are also utilized in personal injury cases, domestic cases, even small claims cases.

The Judiciary of Guam has become creative by not only continuing to provide language services to LEP defendants, but by making improvements to language services with decreased allotments. The current and impending population growth of our island, an increase in court cases, and the composition of Guam's ethnic diversity has become so immense that in keeping up with emergent needs, it is critical that coordination and collaboration exists among government agencies.

The Judiciary of Guam seeks to improve interpreter services and administration by certifying court interpreters for non-English speaking persons. A planning group, in partnership with the University of Guam, has been formed to develop a formal court interpreter training/certification program to address current and long term needs. This will improve court services and ensure equal access to justice and court services.



Chuukese interpreter being sworn in.

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q. What do interpreters do?

- A. They make communication between attorney, client and court or interview between doctor & client easy so that all parties can clearly understand proceedings and are able to participate in court programs and services.

Q. What do I do if I need a foreign language or sign Language interpreter for a court appearance?

- A. Contact your attorney. Your attorney will submit a request to the Clerk's Office and they will work to provide an interpreter for you. If you are an indigent person, the Court will pay for the interpreter.

Q. What do court interpreters do?

- A. Interpreters interpret for people in and out of court who cannot communicate effectively in English. This includes defendants, witnesses, victims in criminal court as well as in family and civil courts. They also work in out of court settings for attorney appointments, meetings, counseling appointments, depositions, and interviews.

Q. What kinds of cases use interpreters?

- A. You may find an Interpreter in every type of case in the Superior or Supreme Court. Cases range from personal injury cases, small claims, traffic, domestic violence, child support, sexual assault, drug offenses, arson and DUI cases. Interpreters also assist with appointments with attorneys, and also for counseling services.

Q. Where do I direct questions, complaints or concerns regarding interpreter services?

- A. Any questions, complaints or concerns may be directed to the Clerk of Court, Richard B. Martinez.