

VOIR DIRE FOR SPOKEN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

The following are suggested questions to determine if an interpreter is qualified to interpret at a given hearing:

Communication Needs

1. Have you communicated with the party/witness/defendant in need of your services? (*If not, consider providing an opportunity now.*)
2. Can you communicate clearly with one another? (*Note: Pay attention to the interaction, and each person's facial clues to gauge understanding.*)
3. Is the first language of the Limited English Proficient person(s) Spanish? If not, what is it? (*Mam, Qanjobal, Chuj, Akateko, Quechua*)

Interpreter Qualifications

1. Are you duly certified by the South Carolina Court Interpreter Program in the _____ language? What is your certification number? When did you pass the oral examination?
2. What is your native language?
3. Have you formally studied your non-native language in school or college? Please describe.
4. Do you know the applicable legal terms in both languages?
5. Tell me what simultaneous and consecutive interpreting are and when you should use them while interpreting court proceedings. (*simultaneous: listen to source language and orally interpret into the target language, even though the speaker has not paused – as in an opening statement*) (*consecutive: question is asked in English, interpretation follows, answer is given, interpretation follows, etc.*)
6. Can you interpret simultaneously and consecutively for the languages requested in this proceeding without additions, subtractions, or amendments?
7. What specific courses or training have you completed in court interpreter ethics, legal or court interpreting and translating?
8. What does NAJIT (*pronounced NAH-jet*) mean to you? (*National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators*)
9. What process would you use to inform the Court of an error in your interpretation?

Conflicts of Interest

1. Have you ever interpreted for any of the parties, lawyers, law enforcement, or witnesses in this case?
2. Do you have a pecuniary or other interest in the outcome of this case?

Ethics

1. Please state at least 3 rules from the South Carolina *Rules of Professional Conduct for Court Interpreters*.
2. Do you understand your duties with respect to the Rules of Professional Conduct?
3. Do you promise to adhere to the Rules of Professional Conduct during these proceedings?