

# Need an Interpreter? – How to Work with an Interpreter

The courts provide interpreters for court proceedings and services for people with limited English skills. This service is free of charge. The Court will choose who will serve as the court interpreter. Only a court approved interpreter may provide interpretation at a hearing or other court event. You may not use a friend or family member as your court interpreter.

## What to Expect

- The court interpreter may speak to you before court to make sure you can understand each other.
- Speak in your language to the judge and other people in the courtroom.
- The interpreter will interpret everything you say into English and will use the first person or “I” when interpreting.
- If you do not understand something, tell the judge immediately.
- Interpreters may ask you to repeat or clarify statements. They may ask that you slow down or pause.
- Interpreters cannot give legal advice. They are not allowed to answer questions about your case. If you have questions, speak to your lawyer or raise your question in court.

## Watch the Video



## What the Interpreter Cannot Do

- Interpreters must follow court rules which require them to remain neutral.
- The interpreter cannot give you legal advice or explain court proceedings.
- Do not ask the interpreter questions about your case. Do not ask about what will happen in court.
- Court interpreters are not permitted to have private conversations with you or your family.

## Technology the Interpreter May Use

- Interpreters may use a head set or microphone to assist them. If the interpreter uses such a device, they will instruct you in its use before the hearing begins.
- The court may provide an interpreter using video remote interpreting. The court staff will call the interpreter when your hearing begins. You will speak to the interpreter through a video display.



# Maryland Court Help

**Free. Online. In Person. By Phone.**