

Need an Interpreter? – How to Request 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.

When are Interpreters Available?

- All hearings and court proceedings.
- Services referred or ordered by the court. Examples of court-ordered events include screenings, assessments, evaluations, mediation. Find a full list at mdcourts.gov/courts/courtlanguageservices.

Watch the Video



Who Can Request Interpreting Services?

- Parties, witnesses, victims or victims' representatives in a Maryland court case.
- Court interpreters are available for criminal, civil, and juvenile proceedings.

How to Request an Interpreter

- If possible, request an interpreter 30 days before your court date.
- Fill out a Request for Spoken Language Interpreter (Form CC-DC-041). The form is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Korean](#), and [Chinese](#). Complete the form in English.
- For sign language, use the [Request for Accommodation for Person with Disability](#) (Form CC-DC-049).
- You may get help completing the form from a lawyer, friend, or family member, or, visit a court self-help center.
- If your case is in Baltimore City Circuit Court, visit baltimorecitycourt.org for more information.
- Submit the form by mail or in person to the clerk's office of the court where the hearing will take place.
- If you are a party in the case, submit a single Request form. Victims, witnesses, or other interested persons must submit a new Request for each court appearance.
- Interpreters are available to provide interpretation only. They cannot help you in any other way.

Who Can Help You Complete the Form?

- If a lawyer is representing you, the lawyer can help you complete the form.
- If your case is a civil case, and you are not already represented by a lawyer, you may get help with the form at a Court Help Center. Call 410-260-1392 or go to mdcourts.gov/helpcenter for a list of locations.
- A friend or family member can help you complete the form.
- Clerks at the courthouse can answer general questions about the form.



Maryland Court Help

Free. Online. In Person. By Phone.

TIP₂₀

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How to Communicate with Court Staff

- The court offers free telephone interpretation at clerk's offices.
- Find an ISPEAK card or Language Line Poster which displays different languages.
- Say the name of the language you speak or point to your language on the card or poster.
- Interpretation is available at the for American Sign Language. Let a court employee know and they will arrange for an interpreter to assist you though video conferencing.



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