

Superior Court of California County of Orange

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: JUNE 19, 2017

Public Notice Regarding Language Access

SANTA ANA -- Effective immediately, the Orange County Superior Court (OCSC) is expanding the availability of free interpreter services for all participants in court proceedings, to improve language access for limited English proficient court users.

As many as 65 languages are serviced free to the public in a given year by more than 300 interpreters, including staff and independent contractors. Current staff interpreters for the OCSC are certified professionals in Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Armenian, and Persian (Assyrian, Farsi, Dari, and Tajiki) languages. Interpreters have traditionally been provided, at no cost, to parties in Criminal, Traffic, Juvenile and in some, but not all, Civil and Family cases. Now parties in any case type may request an interpreter from various public points of contact, including the Clerk's Offices and online via email requests.

Under current law, OCSC will follow an <u>order of priority</u> to make interpreters available for all case types, giving preference to mandated hearings of Criminal, Traffic, Juvenile, Mental Competency hearing with appointed counsel, and other mandated Civil. Interpreters will be provided as resources permit.

To request interpreter services, <u>click here</u> or go to the court interpreter page on http://www.occourts.org/directory/cris/LAP. It is important that parties in need of interpreter services make a request for an interpreter as early in the process as possible. If an interpreter cannot be secured in time for a hearing, the Court may reschedule a matter to a date when an interpreter in your language may be available.

For further details or questions, please contact

Ana De La Torre Language Access Officer adelatorre@occourts.org 657-622-7277