

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF COURTS
MISSISSIPPI COURT INTERPRETER CREDENTIALING PROGRAM

**JUDICIAL BENCH CARD ON APPOINTING
FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURT INTERPRETERS**

Step 1: Determine if an interpreter is needed.

(Miss. Code Ann. § 9-21-79)

An interpreter is needed, and a court interpreter shall be appointed, when the judge determines, after an examination of a party or witness, that:

The party cannot understand and speak English well enough to participate fully in the proceedings and to assist counsel; *or*

The witness cannot speak English so as to be understood directly by counsel, court and jury.

Step 2: Identify the language spoken.

To determine the language spoken by an individual, refer the individual to the **Language Identification Flashcard** located on the back of this bench card.

The individual can point to the box that indicates which language he or she speaks.

Step 3: Locate a certified or registered interpreter.

(Miss. Code Ann. § 9-21-73)

The AOC maintains a registry of court interpreters at: <https://courts.ms.gov/aoc/courtinterpreter/registry.php>

If no interpreter is listed on the roster for the language you require, **contact Deenie Miller, the Director of Language Access at 601-359-4469 or**

deenie.miller@courts.ms.gov or

lepcoordinator@courts.ms.gov.

Step 4: Appoint an interpreter.

(Miss. Code Ann. § 9-21-80)

The court shall appoint an interpreter in the following order:

- (1) **Certified** (followed by)
- (2) **Registered** (followed by)
- (3) **Non-credentialed**

When should a non-credentialed interpreter be appointed?

(Miss. Code Ann. § 9-21-80)

This interpreter should only be appointed if:

(1) neither a certified nor a registered interpreter is reasonably available; **AND**

(2) “The court has evaluated the totality of the circumstances including the gravity of the judicial proceeding and the potential penalty or consequence involved.”

Appointing a Non-Credentialed Interpreter

(Miss. Code Ann. § 9-21-80(3))

Make the following findings on the record: The proposed interpreter appears to have (1) adequate language skills, knowledge of interpreting techniques, and familiarity with interpreting in a court setting and (2) has read, understands, and agrees to abide by the Mississippi Code of Ethics for Court Interpreters and the Mississippi Rules on Standards for Court Interpreters.

A summary of the efforts made to obtain a certified or registered interpreter, as well as a summary of the efforts to determine the capabilities of the proposed non-credentialed interpreter, *shall be made in open court and placed on the record.*

Court Interpreter’s Oath

(Miss. Code Ann. § 9-21-81)

Administer prior to any court proceedings.

“I solemnly swear or affirm that I will interpret from (state the language) into English and from English into (state the language) accurately, completely and impartially, using my best skill and judgment in accordance with prescribed law, the Mississippi Rules on Standards for Court Interpreters, and the Mississippi Code of Ethics for Court Interpreters and discharge all the solemn duties and obligations of legal interpretation and translation.”

How are interpreters paid?

(Miss. Code Ann. § 9-21-81)

An interpreter providing services under this act shall be paid *reasonable expenses* by the court. The expenses of providing an interpreter in any court proceeding or instance arising out of litigation **must be payable out of the county or municipal treasury at no cost to the litigant.**

I Speak Statements

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unë flas shqip (Albanian) | <input type="checkbox"/> N̄ a po Klào Win. (Kru) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> አማርኛ እናገራለሁ (Amharic) | <input type="checkbox"/> ຂ້າພະເຈົ້າເວົ້າ ພາສາລາວ. (Lao) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> انا اتكلم اللغة العربية. (Arabic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yie gorngv Mienh waac. (Mien) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ես խոսում եմ հայերեն (Armenian) | <input type="checkbox"/> म नेपाली बोल्छु (Nepali) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> আমি বাংলা ভাষী। (Bengali) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mówię po polsku . (Polish) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ja govorim bosanski jezik (Bosnian) | <input type="checkbox"/> Eu falo Portugês . (Portuguese) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ကျွန်တော်မြန်မာစကားပြောသည်။ (Burmese) | <input type="checkbox"/> ਇ ਸ੍ਪਆਕ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 我说中文 (Chinese Simplified) | <input type="checkbox"/> Cunosc limba Română . (Romanian) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 我說中文 (Chinese Traditional) | <input type="checkbox"/> Я говорю по-русски . (Russian) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ja govorim hrvatski . (Croatian) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ou te tautala faaSamoa . (Samoan) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> اينجانب به زبان فارسی صحبت می کنم (Farsi) | <input type="checkbox"/> Govorim srpski . (Serbian) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Je parle français . (French) | <input type="checkbox"/> Waxaan ku hadlaa Somali . (Somali) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Je parle le Français haïtien (French Creole) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yo hablo español . (Spanish) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Μιλάω ελληνικά . (Greek) | <input type="checkbox"/> أتحدث السودانية (لغوي سوداني) (Sudanese) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ຊື່ ງູજરાતી બોલુ છું (Gujarati) | <input type="checkbox"/> Marunong po akong magsalita ng Tagalog . (Tagalog) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mwen pale Kreyòl . (Haitian Creole) | <input type="checkbox"/> ข้าพเจ้าพูด ภาษาไทย (Thai) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> मैं हिंदी बोलता हूँ (Hindi) | <input type="checkbox"/> ኣካ ትግርኛ ይዘረብ እየ. (Tigrinya) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kuv hais lus hmoob . (Hmong) | <input type="checkbox"/> Я розмовляю українською . (Ukrainian) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ana m a sụ Igbo (Igbo) | <input type="checkbox"/> میں اردو بولتا/ بولتی ہوں . (Urdu) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parlo Italiano (Italian) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tôi nói tiếng Việt . (Vietnamese) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 私は日本語を話します (Japanese) | <input type="checkbox"/> ך אעא ידיש (Yiddish) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mi chat Jamiekan langwjjj (Jamaican Creole) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mo gbọ Yoruba (Yoruba) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ខ្ញុំនិយាយភាសាខ្មែរ (Khmer) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 본인의 모국어는 한국어 입니다 (Korean) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ئە ز زمانى كوردى ده ئاخفم. (Kurdish) | |