

ARIZONA SUPERIOR COURT

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF PIMA

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
) NO. 2010-11
SERVICES OF PIMA COUNTY)
SUPERIOR COURT INTERPRETERS) (Supersedes Administrative Order
) No. 2007-09)
)
_____)

The increasing involvement of non-English speaking litigants and witnesses in Pima County Superior Court cases presents significant challenges to the court in managing interpreter resources. The court historically has addressed those issues on an as-needed basis and has now addressed its responsibilities more formally in its *Plan for Addressing the Needs of Court Participants with Limited English Proficiency* ("Plan"), for criminal, civil, family law and probate cases, which is adopted as of the date of this order.

In order to ensure that court interpreter resources are appropriately directed toward public services for which the court is responsible, the following policy is hereby adopted:

The court will make all reasonable efforts to supply interpreters in all court proceedings where a party, witness or victim requires such services. The Plan, referenced above, details the court's intentions. At this time it is necessary to restrict interpreter services to the needs of Superior Court judicial and administrative divisions. The use of court-provided interpreters in non-criminal cases is subject to allocation of available court resources. Given interpreter scarcity, the court requires that a request for interpreter services in a non-criminal case be made of the court interpreters' office as soon as the need is known by the parties, and barring extraordinary circumstances, no less than 10 business days prior to the scheduled hearing. The court anticipates meeting all such needs in accordance with the timetable contained within the Plan. Until that time, in non-criminal cases a party may use the services of a qualified interpreter retained by that party; and a financially able party may be required to do so when court resources are not sufficient to provide services for a specific proceeding.

Pima County Superior Court interpreters shall not provide translation or verification of translation and out-of-court attorney-client or witness interview services to users other than the judges and staff of Superior Court unless by court order. This limitation extends to out-of-court (non-court originated) translations or verifications of video or audio recordings, transcripts and lawyer-client conversations, witness interviews and letters needing translation by any legal office.

Where non-court interpreters or translators are used for translation of exhibits or other documents to be used in court, it is the responsibility of the party presenting such evidence to ensure that such documents, recordings, transcripts or translations thereof are prepared by a qualified expert under Arizona Rules of Evidence 604 and 703, who will be available to testify as to the translation's accuracy or to its foundation for admission into evidence. The exhibit and the expert must be timely disclosed.

Nothing in this order shall prevent or discourage court-provided interpreters or translators from providing, in accordance with the applicable administrative directives of the court, the maximum level of services consistent with the court resources available.

DATED this _____ day of July, 2010.

JAN E. KEARNEY
Presiding Judge

cc: Court Administration
Pima County Superior Court Bench
Victoria F. Vasquez, Director of Court Interpreters