

1- Introduce yourself: Name / Court Certified Interpreter by the Alaska Court System through the NCLAC, a section of the NCSC; Medical Certified Interpreter, CMI-Spanish through the NBCMI; Translator.

2- Why the need for a professional interpreter: Everyday conversation – very different to that on a legal/medical, etc. setting, where terminology is very specialized.

AT A DEPOSITION:

Interpreting could be done onsite, telephonically, or through video remote if conditions allowed.

3- Formal Introduction done at the beginning of the Deposition: In a few words, the Interpreter explains in both languages how the work will be done using an Interpreter, first in English, then in the language of the LEP. The Interpreter always speaks using first person, except when he/she refers to self, saying for eg. “The interpreter needs a clarification...”, using the 3rd. person.

4- Basic Role of an Interpreter: To facilitate communication whenever there is a language barrier, allowing for the LEP to be on the same foot as any English-speaking person. Now, it could happen that the provider and LEP do not understand each other, but that could also be the case between English-speaking people, who might not agree on something. This would have to be resolved in the same manner as between 2 English-speaking people, just using an Interpreter. The interpreter is present only to interpret what has been said, without adding, omitting, explaining, etc. In case of needing clarification, repetition, etc., ALL is said in both languages. In extreme cases, in the presence of a cultural difference (for eg. Triqui people do not consider time to be important and very often do not even know their own age and/or D.O.B.), or where an LEP is illiterate, the Interpreter could intervene by making the provider aware of it, however returning immediately to the Interpreter’s role as a Conduit.

4 Levels in General:

- Conduit
- Clarifier
- Culture Broker
- Advocate

Since the Judicial System is adversarial, the interpreter can only adopt the first 2 levels of incremental intervention as the situation demands, i.e. as a Conduit and Clarifier, returning ASAP to the Conduit Level. This is different in a medical environment, where the interpreter’s role is a little bit more flexible, as it is collaborative.

5- Modes of Interpreting: All 3 modes could be used during a Deposition.

1- Consecutive, as in Questions & Answers Session, which is the most suitable mode for a deposition. It is important that the parties speaks slowly, in short sentences, so that nothing gets lost in the interpretation process.

2- Simultaneous, a.k.a. Conference Interpreting: Used whenever there is a conversation in a different language, not understood by someone present. This means that if there is something you would not

like to be interpreted, then you would have to speak quietly enough, so that it is not heard by the interpreter (and this goes for everybody who is present).

3- Sight Translation, used when there is a document which needs to be read. Usually, the Interpreter takes a few minutes to scan over the document, which is then read in the target language.

Should you have any questions, comments, and/or requests, please, do not hesitate to contact me.

Yolanda Martinez-Ley

Court Certified Interpreter

Certified Medical Interpreter, CMI-Spanish

Translator

Tel. (907) 248-0530 / 232-2585

ymley@betweenlanguages.com

www.betweenlanguages.com