Obtaining a Spoken Foreign Language Court Interpreter for Court Proceedings – Courts

The Judicial Branch **will provide** an interpreter at state expense for:

- all civil and criminal court proceedings before a magistrate, clerk of superior court, district court judge, superior court judge, the Court of Appeals, or the Supreme Court.
- child custody mediation, permanency mediation, and child planning conferences.

All Spoken Foreign Language Court Interpreters	Submit a *Request for Spoken Foreign Language Court Interpreter** at least 10 business days prior to the scheduled proceeding, or as soon as the proceeding is placed on the court calendar. Requests should be submitted electronically from the website at http://www.NCcourts.gov. The LAC for each county can be contacted by sending an email to an address using the following naming convention: County.Interpreter@nccourts.org. For example, Wake.Interpreter@nccourts.org and NewHanover.Interpreter@nccourts.org.
IMPORTANT	**Failure to provide sufficient time to secure a qualified interpreter likely will result in a delay or postponement of the court proceeding if a qualified interpreter is not available.** **Once services are requested, if it is determined before the court date that the case will not go forward as scheduled, please notify the local Language Access Coordinator so services can be cancelled in a timely manner (no less than 24 hours) to avoid unnecessary cancellation charges.**

The Judicial Branch will provide an interpreter at state expense to facilitate communication involving the district attorney, indigent defendants or respondents and appointed counsel, or the Guardian ad Litem Program. The Judicial Branch will not provide an interpreter at state expense for out-of-court communications between privately retained counsel and their civil clients, privately retained counsel and their non-indigent criminal defendants, for probation and parole functions, and for private mediations and arbitrations.

The Judicial Branch **will not provide** an interpreter at state expense for out-of-court communications between privately retained counsel and their civil clients, privately retained counsel and their non-indigent criminal defendants, for settlement negotiations, for probation and parole functions, and for private mediations and arbitrations.