

Protocol for Positioning of Interpreter

In-Court Events and Proceedings	Protocol for Positioning of Interpreter
Brief proceedings (for example, continuances, time waivers, defendant bringing in proof of completion of a court-ordered requirement, etc.)	Interpreter stands next to defendant near counsel table, or, if defendant is in-custody, next to defendant at door of lockup or on outer side of partition where in-custody defendants await their court appearance. Interpreter informs the court immediately if they can't hear everything being stated on the record.
Lengthier proceedings interpreting for defendant	Interpreter seated at counsel table next to defendant in order to facilitate optimal interpreting performance. If otherwise, interpreter informs the court.
During guilty and not guilty pleas	Interpreter stands or sits next to defendant
When a brief proceeding turns into a long proceeding	Parties and interpreter commonly proceed to be seated
Preliminary Hearing, Motion, or Trial (when interpreting proceedings for defendant)	Interpreter usually seated at counsel table next to defendant
Preliminary Hearing, Motion, or Trial (when interpreting witness testimony)	Interpreter sits (or stands) next to witness on witness stand so as not to obstruct judge's or jury's view
Judge orders witness(es) back for a future time or date	When witness(es) called forward, interpreter stands next to witness to interpret
Out of Court events (for example, attorney client interviews, sight translation of court documents, etc.)	Interpreters situate themselves so as to optimize interpreting performance.