

HOW TO WORK WITH A COURT INTERPRETER



If you have to go to court and don't speak or understand English very well, a qualified court interpreter can help you communicate with the court in the language you are comfortable speaking. Here are some tips to help you work with a court interpreter:

1

SPEAK SLOWLY

Speak at a normal pace or even a little slower than usual so that the interpreter can keep up with you. If the interpreter signals you to slow down, pause or slow down. Don't stop speaking.



2

SPEAK ONLY IN YOUR LANGUAGE

Even if you know some English, speak only in your language to avoid confusion.



3

LISTEN ONLY TO THE INTERPRETER

Do not try to listen to the English at the same time. You could miss important information.



4

SPEAK CLEARLY AND DIRECTLY

Speak directly to the person speaking to you, such as the judge or lawyer. And make sure to speak loudly and clearly enough that the judge and interpreter can hear you.



5

TELL THE JUDGE IF YOU CANNOT HEAR OR UNDERSTAND

If you cannot hear or understand, tell the judge right away. Unless you say something, no one will know you cannot understand.



For more tips and information on working with court interpreters, go to www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-interpreter.htm.



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