Frequently Asked Questions:

1) **Are your contract interpreters approved for CJA work?**

   Our Court does not have a formal approval process for CJA interpreter work. It is up to the attorney to verify that any interpreter they plan to use meets the requirements set by statute or by the Court for judicial and quasi-judicial proceedings. Some of our contract interpreters have been previously used by our Panel and are already set up in the Court's CJA eVoucher system. Contract Interpreters used by our Court, Probation, and Pre-trial Services, must sign a contract not to double bill for work done on any single day, for the same block of time, for additional work done for any other federally funded organization (including CJA, Federal Defenders or the US Attorney's Office).

2) **I'm a defense attorney and I have a trial coming up. What is the procedure to schedule an interpreter for a witness?**

   To schedule an interpreter please contact, Rebeca Calderon, Manager of Interpreter Services at 619-557-5172 or rebeca_calderon@casd.uscourts.gov

3) **My client speaks English but I need an interpreter for a witness at trial. How do I secure an interpreter for this event?**

   To schedule an interpreter please contact, Rebeca Calderon, Manager of Interpreter Services at 619-557-5172 or rebeca_calderon@casd.uscourts.gov

4) **I'm an AUSA and I have a trial coming up. How do I make sure I have an interpreter for my non-English speaking witnesses?**

   The Guide to the Judiciary Policy on non-English speaking government witnesses is as follows:

§ 215 Government Witnesses

1. (a)If a government witness speaks only or primarily a language other than English and requires an interpreter, the U.S. attorney is responsible for securing and paying for such services (28 U.S.C. § 1827(c)(2)).
2. (b)If the U.S. attorney utilizes a court-provided contract interpreter, the court may (28 U.S.C. § 1827(g)(3)) bill the portion of services for government witnesses to the

Department of Justice (DOJ) if the costs are sufficient to offset the accounting administrative cost.

1. (1) Similarly, if a staff interpreter is utilized for a government witness, the court may bill for reimbursement of salary at the hourly rate that is equal to the interpreter's salary plus benefits (e.g., government contribution to retirement, overhead).

5) I was just appointed to a new case and my client does not speak English. Where can I find an interpreter to communicate with my client?

The Interpreter's section maintains a roster on the Court's external website. All interpreters on this list have had background checks completed and their credentials have been verified. To view the roster please go to: https://www.casd.uscourts.gov/Interpreters/SitePages/InterpreterRoster.aspx and select the language you need from the drop down menu. If the language you are looking for does not appear on the list please contact, Rebeca Calderon, Manager of Interpreter Services at 619-557-5172 or rebeca_calderon@casd.uscourts.gov

6) Can I use the services of a Spanish Court Staff interpreter to talk to my client?

Yes, if your client is located within the premises that we service and the visit is scheduled during business hours. Please contact, Rebeca Calderon, Manager of Interpreter Services at 619-557-5172 or rebeca_calderon@casd.uscourts.gov to schedule your request.

7) I have a trial coming up with an interpreter for a witness. Any best practices you can share on working with an interpreter on the stand at trial?

If you know you will have non-English speaking witness at trial, including but not limited to your client, we encourage you to use the services of the trial interpreter to review and prepare testimony. That way, you can be sure that the interpreter will be fully prepared to assist the non-English speaker and any terminology and dialect issues may be resolved prior to trial. Please contact, Rebeca Calderon, Manager of Interpreter Services at 619-557-5172 or rebeca_calderon@casd.uscourts.gov to schedule a meeting to prepare for trial with your assigned interpreter.