THE

BRIEF

October 2019

An electronic update for the legal community providing a brief look at news in Eau Claire County Courts.

INTERPRETER INFORMATION

If a person has limited English proficiency or if the Court determines that the person needs an interpreter to communicate with counsel, understand English testimony, or be understood in English; then the Court shall advise the person of their right to a qualified interpreter.

An interpreter shall be appointed at the public expense if the person is a party; a witness while testifying, a crime victim, a parent of a minor party, a legal guardian, or another person affected by the action if deemed necessary and appropriate by the Court. (Contacts: Susan Schaffer 715/839-6299 or Laura Yohn 715/839-6786)

Eau Claire County Courts appointed interpreters for 272 individuals in 9 different languages in 2018.

Two interpreters are required for hearings scheduled for 2+ hours. Interpreters may not appear via videoconference for jury trials (§§967.09 and 807.14). Telephone interpreting services can be used for short, non-evidentiary proceedings other than trials. §§807.14 and 967.09
The cost is:
　　2-hour minimum @ $50/hour – *ASL interpreters are higher at ~$86/hour*
　　$50/hour travel time plus $0.51/mile round trip
　　Cancellation less than 48 hours – they are entitled to 2-hour minimum pay except for jury trials
　　If a jury trial cancels with less than 48 hours notice (or concludes early) – 8 hours pay for each day

Documents cannot be submitted in an individual's native language, they must be submitted or filing in English. §§751.18 and 901.09. The Court is not responsible for translation of any documents.

Court forms translated into Spanish and Hmong can be found at www.wicourts.gov under Circuit court forms – Other languages. Additional information about interpreters, including the certification process, can be found at www.wicourts.gov – Services – for Interpreters.