

Language Interpreters

Notice Regarding Use of Interpreters for Participants in Court Proceedings Who Speak Only or Primarily a Language Other Than English

Bankruptcy Appeals and Bankruptcy Cases

In a bankruptcy case, the parties are responsible for providing interpreter services for judicial proceedings as well as communications between counsel and the parties, except in very limited instances when:

- (1) the bankruptcy proceedings are instituted by the United States, or
- (2) a party has a hearing impairment (whether or not also suffering from a speech impairment).

If the proceedings are instituted by the United States, the bankruptcy judge must appoint an interpreter if the judge determines that a party or witness speaks only or primarily a language other than English or has a hearing impairment (whether or not suffering also from a speech impairment), so as to inhibit that person's comprehension or communication in the proceeding. This may include the assignment of an interpreter to facilitate communication between counsel and the party.

Matters instituted by the United States are adversary proceedings initiated by agencies such as the:

- U.S. Trustee (UST);
- Internal Revenue Services (IRS);
- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC); and
- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

Section 341 Meetings of Creditors

The U.S. Trustee's office provides language interpreters without charge for Section 341 Meetings of Creditors. Those needing an interpreter should notify the appointed trustee in advance of the 341 meeting. Any questions can be directed to Ms. Tisha Doll, Office of the United States Trustee, (423) 752-5153.

For more information, please see the following:

<https://www.uscourts.gov/services-forms/federal-court-interpreters>

<https://www.uscourts.gov/rules-policies/judiciary-policies/court-interpreting-guidance>