

## RULE 403 (Fed. R. Crim. P. 5)

### COURT INTERPRETER SERVICES IN CRIMINAL ACTIONS

**(a) Courtroom Proceedings.** Regardless of the presence of a private interpreter, only official, judicially-designated interpreters may interpret official courtroom proceedings in criminal actions, except as provided in 28 U.S.C. § 1827(f)(1).

**(b) Notice of Need for Interpreter Services.** Defense counsel in criminal actions shall promptly determine whether they will need interpreter services for any defendants or defense witnesses at future court proceedings and shall timely notify the court staff interpreter, and/or the courtroom deputy clerk for the Judge or Magistrate Judge assigned to hear the action, that an interpreter is needed. It may take up to one week to arrange for interpreter services in languages other than Spanish, and three court days for Spanish interpreter services. Notification of the need for interpreter services should include identification of the language required, any dialect, and any additional information that could assist the court staff interpreter. If a scheduled court proceeding is canceled or rescheduled, counsel shall promptly notify the staff interpreter and/or courtroom deputy to cancel or reschedule any accompanying interpreter arrangements. As to interpreters for Government witnesses, see 28 U.S.C. § 1827.

**(c) Staff Interpreter.** Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1827(c), the Court employs a staff interpreter in both Sacramento and Fresno, who is responsible for securing the services of qualified interpreters. The staff interpreter can be reached through the Clerk.

**(d) Sanctions.** Unjustified failure to notify the staff court interpreters of the need for an interpreter or of a cancelled or rescheduled hearing may result in sanctions, including an order ~~directing counsel for the party, or counsel calling a witness, requiring the interpreter~~ to pay the cost of interpreter services.