

CHAPTER 1273  
COURT INTERPRETERS

S. F. 1096

AN ACT relating to the appointment of interpreters in legal proceedings before any court or administrative agency.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

1 SECTION 1. As used in this Act, "legal proceeding" means any  
2 action before any court, or any legal action preparatory to appearing  
3 before any court, whether civil or criminal in nature; and any ad-  
4 ministrative proceeding before any state agency or governmental  
5 subdivision which is quasi-judicial in nature and which has direct  
6 legal implications to any person.

1 SEC. 2. Every person who cannot speak or understand the English  
2 language, or every person who because of hearing, speaking or other  
3 impairment has difficulty in communicating with other persons, and  
4 who is a party to any legal proceeding or a witness therein, shall be  
5 entitled to an interpreter to assist such person throughout the pro-  
6 ceeding.

1 SEC. 3. An interpreter shall be appointed without expense to the  
2 person requiring assistance in the following cases:

3 1. If the person requiring assistance is a witness in the civil legal  
4 proceeding.

5 2. If the person requiring assistance is indigent and financially  
6 unable to secure an interpreter.

7 In civil cases, every court shall tax the cost of an interpreter the  
8 same as other court costs. In criminal cases, where the defendant is  
9 indigent, the interpreter shall be considered as a defendant's witness  
10 under chapter seven hundred eighty-one (781), Code 1966, for the  
11 purpose of receiving fees, except that subpoenas shall not be re-  
12 quired. If the proceeding is before an administrative agency, that  
13 agency shall provide such interpreter but may require that a party  
14 to the proceeding pay the expense thereof.

1 SEC. 4. Every interpreter appointed by a court or administrative  
2 agency shall receive a fee to be set by the court or administrative  
3 agency.

1 SEC. 5. Every interpreter in any legal proceeding shall take the  
2 same oath as any other witness.

1 SEC. 6. Any court or administrative agency may inquire into the  
2 qualifications and integrity of any interpreter, and may disqualify  
3 any person from serving as an interpreter.

Approved April 10, 1970.