

CHAPTER 622A

INTERPRETERS IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

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622A.1 Definitions.

As used in [this chapter](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “Administrative agency” means any department, board, commission, or agency of the state or any political subdivision of the state.
2. “Legal proceeding” means any action before any court, or any legal action preparatory to appearing before any court, whether civil, criminal, or juvenile in nature; and any proceeding before any administrative agency which is quasi-judicial in nature and which has direct legal implications to any person.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §622A.1]

[2006 Acts, ch 1041, §7](#); [2007 Acts, ch 126, §103](#)

622A.2 Who entitled to interpreter.

Every person who cannot speak or understand the English language and who is a party to any legal proceeding or a witness therein, shall be entitled to an interpreter to assist such person throughout the proceeding.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §622A.2]

622A.3 Costs — when taxed.

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

- a. If the person requiring assistance is a witness in the civil legal proceeding.
- b. If the person requiring assistance is indigent and financially unable to secure an interpreter.

2. In civil cases, every court shall tax the cost of an interpreter the same as other court costs. In criminal cases, where the defendant is indigent, the interpreter shall be considered as a defendant’s witness under [rule of criminal procedure 2.15](#) for the purpose of receiving fees, except that subpoenas shall not be required. If the proceeding is before an administrative agency, that agency shall provide such interpreter but may require that a party to the proceeding pay the expense thereof.

3. Moneys recovered as court costs for interpreters paid through the revolving fund established in [section 602.1302, subsection 3](#), shall be deposited in that fund.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §622A.3]

[99 Acts, ch 144, §8](#)

622A.4 Fee set by court — payment.

Every interpreter appointed by a court or administrative agency shall receive a fee to be set by the court or administrative agency. If the interpreter is appointed by the court in a civil case for a person who is indigent and unable to secure an interpreter, the fee for the interpreter shall be paid from the revolving fund established in [section 602.1302, subsection 3](#).

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §622A.4]

[99 Acts, ch 144, §9](#)

622A.5 Oath.

Every interpreter in any legal proceeding shall take the same oath as any other witness.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §622A.5]

622A.6 Qualifications and integrity.

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

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §622A.6]

622A.7 Rules.

The supreme court, after consultation with the commission of Latino affairs of the department of human rights and other appropriate departments, shall adopt rules governing the qualifications and compensation of interpreters appearing in proceedings before a court or grand jury under [this chapter](#). However, an administrative agency which is subject to [chapter 17A](#) may adopt rules differing from those of the supreme court governing the qualifications and compensation of interpreters appearing in proceedings before that agency.

[84 Acts, ch 1137, §1](#)

622A.8 Tape recording.

A tape recording of the portion of proceedings where non-English testimony is given shall be made and maintained.

[84 Acts, ch 1137, §2](#)