

NUMBER OF INTERPRETERS NEEDED QUESTION & ANSWER

Question: How many same-language interpreters are needed for separate parties in the same hearing?

Answer: The court should afford each party a separate interpreter, if needed, to avoid a conflict of interest.

Question: What if a party and a witness need same-language interpreters in the same hearing?

Answer: The court should provide one interpreter for a party and a separate interpreter who can interpret for all witnesses (if a party's interpreter serves as an interpreter for a witness, the interpreter cannot assist in communications between the party and counsel).

Exception: When separate interpreters are not available, for example in rural communities, then the potential conflict should be disclosed and any waiver put on the record.