

Language Access and the Preliminary Protective Order Process in Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court:

All interpretation services are free.

When the petitioner makes an appointment for the protective order, it is important to let the Domestic Relations Intake staff know what language and dialect they speak. An interpreter may be provided by phone, by video conferencing, or in person.

Interpreters are required to follow a set of rules and ethics for how they provide interpretation services. What the petitioner tells the interpreter is confidential, and the interpreter must be impartial and unbiased. If the petitioner knows the interpreter, they should let a court staff member know.

If the petitioner is not satisfied with their interpreter at any point, they can let a court employee know, and a complaint form is available to report that information.

If the petitioner uses an interpreter for the appointment to file, the court staff will request an interpreter for the court hearing. If the petitioner speaks English but has a witness who needs an interpreter, the petitioner will need to request one at the Pre-Court window of the Clerk's Office, Room 301 on the third floor of the Courthouse.