
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2013 – 09

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
36th DISTRICT COURT**

SUBJECT: LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN

LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN

In accordance with Supreme Court Administrative Order 2013-8, the Court establishes this Language Access Plan (LAP) to provide for the language access needs of court users.

This LAP is the Plan for the Court to ensure meaningful access to court services for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). A limited English proficient person is a person who does not speak English as his or her primary language, and who has a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English, and by reason of his or her limitations, is not able to understand and meaningfully participate in the court process.

The purpose of the Plan is to provide a framework for the provision of timely and effective language assistance to LEP persons who come in contact with the Court.

The Court has appointed a Language Access Coordinator (LAC) to be a contact person for the public, Court staff, and SCAO concerning this Plan and its implementation. The LAC may be contacted through the Trial Services Department.

IT IS ORDERED:

Section I. Needs Assessment

A. Census Data

The Court will make every effort to provide service to all LEP persons in the Court's service area. The following list shows the non-English languages most frequently spoken in the Court's physical jurisdiction.

1. Spanish
2. Arabic
3. Polish
4. Hmong

B. Court Experience

Based on court usage, the following list shows another non-English language spoken in the court and not reflected in the US Census data.

1. Bengali

C. Identification of LEP Persons

Court staff use the following methods to identify LEP persons:

1. "I Speak" cards
2. Assistance from bi-lingual employees
3. Family or Friend

Section II. Language Assistance Resources

A. Interpreters Used In the Courtroom

The Court will offer assistance to LEP persons in the courtroom by providing foreign language interpreters as required by Michigan Court Rule 1.111.

B. Language Services Outside of the Courtroom

The Court will take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to services outside the courtroom. This is one of the most challenging situations facing Court staff, because in most situations they will encounter LEP persons without an interpreter present. LEP persons may come in contact with Court personnel via:

- Telephone
- Court Administration
- Security entrance
- Trial Services Department
- Cashier's Office
- Various public information areas and departments
- Civil/Real Estate Division
- Criminal/Traffic Division

Court staff will consult with the Court's LAC to determine what type of language service should be made available, based on the nature and importance of the court service to be provided and resources available. The following language services are available:

- Bi-Lingual employees
- In-person interpreters
- Remote Telephonic Interpretation Company

C. Service Referrals

The Court will make reasonable efforts to ensure that a non-federally funded entity to which the Court refers LEP persons for services has provisions for addressing their needs. The Court will consider viable alternatives if language access is not provided by such a non-federally funded entity.

D. Forms & Documents

The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) makes select translated forms available to the courts at <http://courts.michigan.gov/Administration/SCAO/Forms/Pages/default.aspx>.

1) Additional translated forms available to court users include:
When in-person interpreters are hired for court proceedings, they are expected to provide sight interpretation of documents for LEP persons.

2) Courthouse translation for LEP

- Bi-Lingual employees
- In-person interpreters

E. Other Provisions

In an effort to provide LEP persons language access to Court information, the Court also provides the following:

- "I Speak" card available on the Court's website to print and bring in.

Section III. Training

The Court is committed to training its judges and Court staff on providing LEP persons with meaningful access to court services. When the Court provides training sessions, it will include a component addressing LEP policy and procedure and the Court's LAP. The Court is aware that staff members having contact with the public are more likely to need in-depth training on LEP policy and procedure.

The Court will work with SCAO and MJI to ensure that all employees are trained on LEP policy and procedure. Training will be offered to assist judges and staff to: identify and respond to LEP persons, increase awareness of the types of language services available, guide when and how to access those services, and effectively use language services.

The Court provides to judges and Court staff the following training regarding language access:

- “New Judge” Orientation which includes a segment on the policy and procedure for providing LEP persons with services.
- Trial Services Department training for new court reporters and new courtroom clerks regarding their role and responsibilities in the courtrooms for coordinating and obtaining services for LEP persons.
- Advising Court staff of the Court’s website Under “Request for Accommodations: which outlines the procedure and the contact information for the LAC responsible for obtaining a foreign language interpreter.

Section IV. Public Notification and Evaluation of Language Access Plan

A. Language Access Plan Approval and Notification

The Court’s LAP has been approved by the State Court Administrative Office. The Court will post its LAP on its public website and public notification area within the courthouses and will make copies of the LAP available upon request.

The Court consulted with the following members of the community in creating its LAP:

- Detroit Police Department
- City Clerk’s Office
- Wayne County Circuit Court

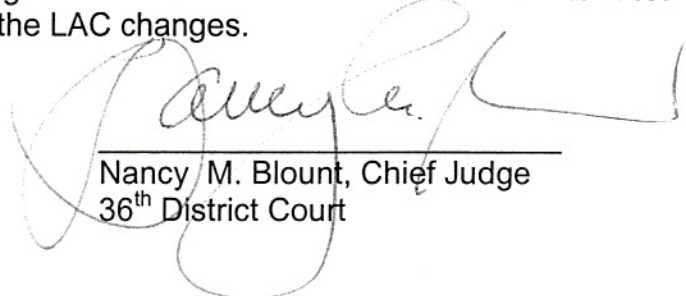
B. Evaluation and Review of the LAP

At the direction of SCAO, or on its own initiative, the Court will assess whether the LAP needs updating. The LAP will remain in effect unless modified or updated. Review of the following areas may indicate a need to update the LAP:

- Number of LEP persons requesting court interpreters or language assistance
- Funding provided or available for languages services
- Current language needs to determine if additional services or translated materials should be provided
- Feedback from LEP communities within the county
- Court staff (turnover, new hires, etc.)
- Feedback from trainings provided by the Court or SCAO/MJI
- Viability of identified language services and resources
- Problem areas and corrective action strategies
- Updated census data

The LAC for this Court ensures this plan is followed, advises the Court on potential updates to this plan, and coordinates the language access needs for the Court as they arise. The Court has issued an addendum to this order identifying the name and contact information of the LAC. The Court will update that addendum any time the LAC changes.

Dated: December 5, 2013



Nancy M. Blount, Chief Judge
36th District Court

ADDENDUM TO LAO 2013-24: LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN

Language Access Coordinator Contact Information

This form identifies the Thirty-Sixth District Court's Language Access Coordinator (LAC). The Court Administrator must notify the SCAO Regional Office if there are any changes to the contact information, or if the Court names a different LAC.

Name (required): **Debra McGinnis**

Bar Number (if appropriate):

Court Number/Name: **36th District Court**
Court Address: 421 Madison
City, State, ZIP: Detroit, MI 48226

Main Contact Number: **313-965-5595**

E-mail Address: debra.mcginis@36thdistrictcourt.org

Date (required): December 5, 2013