

Interpreter Orientation Q&A May 13, 2008

- Q. Is it going to be the policy of Snohomish County to only pay the first appointment of the day at the 2 hour minimum or will it be 2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the afternoon?
- A. The “Snohomish County Trial Courts Interpreter Payment Procedures” have been amended to allow for 1 (one) 2 hour minimum AM session **and** 1 (one) 2 hour minimum PM session. Services provided in excess of the 2 hour AM and/or 2 hour PM sessions will be paid in 30 minute increments.
- Q. Apparently some municipal courts are using “qualified” interpreters in Spanish when there are plenty of Spanish interpreters available. Can we expect that that will end on June 2nd?
- A. As one of the 10 multi-court implementation sites chosen to receive funding, Snohomish County has agreed to work closely with AOC and the Interpreter Commission to encourage and assist interpreters to become certified or registered. Courts only receive reimbursement from AOC for 50% of interpreter costs when using certified interpreters for certified languages, registered interpreters for registered languages, and qualified interpreters for non-certified and non-registered languages.
- Q. What happens if traffic heavy? If you are running late can we have contact information to let them know?
- A. Superior Court – Della Moore (425) 388-3459
District Court – Lisa Holden (425) 388-3893 or (425) 388-3593
Edmonds Muni – (425) 771-0210
Everett Muni – Katie Traenkenschuh (425) 257-7052
Lynnwood Muni – (425) 670-5100
Marysville Muni – Kim Ricker (360) 363-8059
- Q. For jury trials will there be 2 interpreters? Many studies show exhaustion sets in at 20 minutes.
- A. The need to schedule 2 interpreters for trial will be decided by the trial court on a case by case basis.
- Q. How do we fill in the form when we work 1 hour for municipal and 1 hour for district?

- A. The “Snohomish County Courts Interpreter Invoice” will be amended to reflect 2 check boxes, one for AM session and one for PM session. Interpreters are asked to complete and submit an invoice at each court for which interpreter services are provided. For example: if an interpreter is scheduled to begin his/her “AM session” at the Everett Division of District Court at 8:30 am and then report to Everett Municipal Court at 10:00 am (same AM session) the interpreter would complete 2 invoices, one for District Court and one for Everett Municipal Court. The invoice submitted to District Court would bill for the AM session and travel if applicable. The interpreter would mark the AM session box at the top of the invoice. The interpreter would submit the 2nd invoice to Everett Municipal Court again marking the AM session box, but would not bill for the 10:00 job as it is part of the 2 hour AM session. The interpreter would not bill for travel as District Court Everett Division and Everett Municipal Court are within walking distance.
- Q. Why not change the color of the website? It looks too much like King County’s, that’s confusing.
- A. Changes will be made the interpreter scheduling application to make it unique to Snohomish County.
- Q. Will the courts have particular interpreters assigned to them as their primary interpreters before releasing jobs to the website?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do non-certified interpreters get paid the same rate as certified interpreters?
- A. Certified and registered interpreters will be paid \$50.00 per hour.
Qualified interpreters will be paid \$40.00 per hour.
- Q. Will non-certified interpreters have access to the certified languages website?
- A. Assignments requiring a certified interpreter for certified languages will only be open to certified interpreters *unless* a certified interpreter is not available. Certified language assignments would only be open to non-certified interpreters in the cases where a certified interpreter was not available.
- Q. Will the web application give priority to certified interpreters when signing in over registered interpreters?
- A. Yes, in the 9 certified languages.

- Q. Page 2, paragraph 1 indicates that time in excess of the 1 hour payment is paid in ½ hour increments. If the original first job exceeds 2 hours what is the payment increment, also ½ hour?
- A. Yes, assignments exceeding either the AM or PM 2 hours session will be paid in 30 minute increments.