

TRANSLATION in North Dakota

1. **Court Structure:** North Dakota is a Unified Court. Requests for interpreter services are done independently through the clerk's office of each county or a private attorney. There is no central office or registry at this time.
2. **Interpreter Certification program:** North Dakota is not a certification state, but is currently working on a statewide registry that will be accessible on the North Dakota Supreme Court website.
3. **Top 5 Interpreted languages:** Somali, Spanish, Russian, Ethiopian & German.
4. **Staff interpreters/translators:** North Dakota has no staff interpreters. Currently we do not offer a certified exam, but we encourage them to become certified in Minnesota (other states).
5. **Types of Documents Translated:** North Dakota has 808 forms. Currently there are 49 forms translated into several languages. Our goal is to translate 60 additional forms.
6. **Translation Management:** The current case management system contains an alert function that indicates when an interpreter is needed and also tracks statistics regarding the same. We have also just added a lead employee that will keep track of informal requests, i.e. juvenile.
7. **Challenges:** It is very difficult to find qualified interpreters in North Dakota. The need is far and few between so there are not too many agencies willing to travel to the rural areas and when they do the cost of mileage is exorbitant. Also, for trials you need two interpreters, a trial could cost up to \$5,000.00 for a 1 week trial.
8. **Solution:** Create a central registry were the court system in North Dakota can have quicker and easier access to locate qualified Interpreters and find qualified agencies that are willing to travel to rural areas.