

## QUESTIONS TO ASK/CONSIDER WHEN QUALIFYING AN INTERPRETER

*(Some of these questions may not be necessary if the interpreter is court certified.)*

1. Are you certified by the State of Washington as a court interpreter?
  - a. Any other state?
  - b. Any other credentials or certification?
  - c. What and When?
2. What is your native language?
3. How did you learn English and the target language?
4. Can you read in both languages?
5. Did you formally study either language in School?
  - a. Where and how long?
6. Describe your training in the \_\_\_\_\_ language.
7. Describe your experiences in the non-English language country.
8. Have you had an opportunity to speak with the litigant(s)?
  - a. Do you need a few minutes?
  - b. Were there any particular communication problems?
9. Are you familiar with the dialectical or idiomatic peculiarities of the witnesses/parties?
10. Have you ever interpreted in court before?
  - a. Where and how often?
  - b. How many times for this or similar hearings or trials?
  - c. Describe experiences in those hearings or trials.
11. Have you received any special training in court proceedings?
  - a. Describe your experience or training in legal matter in English/other language.
12. Describe simultaneous interpreting and your experience with it.
  - a. Can you interpret simultaneously without changing the meaning of anything that is said?
13. Describe consecutive interpreting and your experience with it.
14. Do you ever summarize statements while interpreting?
  - a. Do you understand the law requires you to interpret everything said by all parties?
15. Have you read the Code of Conduct for Court Interpreters?
  - a. Describe briefly the topic covered. (See GR 11.1)
  - b. Explain your understanding of your duties and of your role.
16. Do you know or have you ever met any of the parties/witnesses?
  - a. In what circumstances?
17. Are you a potential witness in this case?
18. Do you have any other potential conflicts of interest?
19. Have you ever worked for any of the parties/witnesses?
  - a. In what capacity?