

This 15-minute survey is a data collection tool being used by the *Justive Speaks* Task Force to understand the effectiveness of interpretation systems in the courtroom for civil and criminal justice systems. Your answers will be kept strictly confidential and anonymous. The goal of this data collection is to provide more accurate information on what supports effective interpretation as well as to identify constraints and challenges. Please complete this survey as accurately and completely as possible. Thank you for your time and energies.

1. Have you taken this survey before? If yes, please do not proceed. If no, please continue to question no. 2.
2. Sex Female Intersex Male Trans
3. Highest educational level
 - i. 8th grade or less
 - ii. 9th to 12th without high school graduation
 - iii. High School graduate/GED
 - iv. High School/GED and some post-secondary
 - v. 2 or 4-year college graduate
 - vi. Post-graduate degree
4. How long have you been a judicial interpreter?
 - i. Less than 1 year
 - ii. 1-3 years
 - iii. 3-5 years
 - iv. 5 or more years
5. How did you hear about your position/job?
6. Please list the U.S. states in which have you worked as an interpreter in the legal setting.
7. Please list the state in which you are currently working as an interpreter in the legal setting.
8. In what languages are you fluent?
9. For what languages have you been asked to interpret in the courtroom?
10. What type of courts have you worked in?
 - i. Administrative hearings
 - ii. Civil Court
 - iii. County Court
 - iv. Criminal Court
 - v. District Court
 - vi. Family Court
 - vii. Housing Court
 - viii. IDV Court

- ix. Supreme Court
- x. Surrogate's Court
- xi. Other
11. In what context(s) have you served as an interpreter for the criminal justice system?
- a. Arraignment
 - b. Bail or detention hearing
 - c. Corrections/probation interview
 - d. Crime report
 - e. Initial appearance
 - f. Investigation
 - g. Jury trial
 - h. Lawyer/client interactions
 - i. Order of protection/restraining order hearing
 - j. Preliminary hearing
 - k. Sentencing
 - l. Other
12. In what context(s) have you served as an interpreter for the civil justice system?
- i. Child custody
 - ii. Child support
 - iii. Divorce
 - iv. Jury trial
 - v. Lawyer/client interactions
 - vi. Mediation
 - vii. Order of protection/restraining order
 - viii. Preliminary hearing(s)
 - ix. Spousal maintenance
 - x. Other
13. What type of language proficiency assessment were you given when you were hired?
- i. Interview
 - ii. Oral exam
 - iii. Resume review and reference check
 - iv. Written Bilingual proficiency
 - v. Written English proficiency
 - vi. Other
14. Are you a certified interpreter in the state you are currently working? Yes No
- i. If yes, what kind of certification is it?
- Please specify the agency or group which issued the certification.
- ii. If no, please clarify why.

iii. Do you believe certification would be beneficial? Yes No

15. Did you receive training on the following:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| i. Child abuse sensitivity | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| ii. Confidentiality | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| iii. Cultural sensitivity | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| iv. Developing a legal glossary | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| v. Domestic violence sensitivity | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| vi. Ethics | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| vii. Legal procedures and terminology | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| viii. Role of an interpreter | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| ix. Sexual assault sensitivity | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

16. Which of the following trainings do you believe would make your work more effective?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| i. Child abuse sensitivity | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| ii. Confidentiality | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| iii. Cultural sensitivity | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| iv. Developing a legal glossary | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| v. Domestic violence sensitivity | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| vi. Ethics | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| vii. Legal procedures and terminology | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| viii. Role of an interpreter | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| ix. Sexual assault sensitivity | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| x. Other | | |

17. Does your state have a re-certification process or continuing education requirements to continue to qualify as a court interpreter? Yes No

Please explain further.

18. In your experience how long do clients typically have to wait before an interpreter is offered to them?

- i. Less than 12 hours
- ii. Less than 24 hours
- iii. 1-3 days
- iv. 4-6 days
- v. 1-2 weeks
- vi. 2-4 weeks
- vii. 1-4 months
- viii. 5-8 months
- ix. 9-12 months
- x. More than 1 year

19. In your experience how long do clients typically have to wait before an interpreter is requested?

- i. Less than 12 hours
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- v. 1-2 weeks
vi. 2-4 weeks
vii. 1-4 months
viii. 5-8 months
ix. 9-12 months
x. More than 1 year
20. In your experience how long do clients typically have to wait before an interpreter is able to appear?
i. Less than 12 hours
ii. Less than 24 hours
iii. 1-3 days
iv. 4-6 days
v. 1-2 weeks
vi. 2-4 weeks
vii. 1-4 months
viii. 5-8 months
ix. 9-12 months
x. More than 1 year
21. Are there specific periods where waits are most lengthy? Yes No
- If yes, please specify which periods.
- Early morning Daytime Afternoon Evening Night Saturday Sunday

Please answer the following questions using the following scale as a reference:

Very frequently: 10 times or more per year *Frequently:* 7-9 times per year
Somewhat frequently: 4-6 times per year *Rarely:* 1-3 times per year *Never:* 0

22. I have adequate information about a case before I enter the courtroom to interpret.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
23. The courts have made errors regarding my schedule.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
24. I have attended trainings on domestic violence.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
25. I have encountered difficulty hearing the person who I was interpreting for in the courtroom.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
26. I have encountered difficulty on the part of others in hearing my interpretation.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
27. I have encountered poor courtroom setup as an impediment to effective interpretation.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never

28. I have interpreted for someone I knew in my personal life in the courtroom.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
29. I have been in a situation where I was uncomfortable interpreting.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
30. I have been in a situation where I found it difficult to remain objective while interpreting.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
31. I have found myself in the situation where it was necessary to go beyond strict interpretation and inform the client of legal matters.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
32. I have been a witness to many hearings where an interpreter should have been used in a proceeding but was not called.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
33. I have encountered discrepancies regarding what I interpreted on the record.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
34. I have been asked to interpret in a dialect or a language other than what I speak fluently.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
35. I encounter terms which I do not know how to translate on a regular basis.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
36. I have found that judges know how to use my services as a court interpreter.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
37. I have found that attorneys know how to use my services as a court interpreter.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
38. I have found that the general public who use the court system understand the role of a court interpreter.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
39. I have found that judges will explain the role of court interpreter to the parties in the court room.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
40. I have found that attorneys will explain the role of court interpreter to their clients.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
41. I have witnessed interpreted statements (taken by law enforcement or others outside the court room) being attacked in court by one of the parties.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never
42. I have encountered situations where I am unable to see the parties for whom I was interpreting.
 Very Frequently Frequently Somewhat frequently Rarely Never

Please answer the following questions using the Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree scale:

43. I have found that judges are trained on how to use court interpreters.
 Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
44. I have found that attorneys are trained on how to use court interpreters.
 Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
45. I believe that judges and attorneys require more training on how to properly use court interpreters.
 Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
46. I believe that there is a difference between the quality of per-diem interpreters and full-time staff interpreters.
 Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
47. I have found that per-diem interpreters are preferred over staff interpreters in terms of working overtime and/or weekends.
 Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
48. I have found that compensation factors affect the use of staff interpreters.
 Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree
49. I experience the following support to doing my job effectively:
- a. Support from court personnel
 - b. Appropriate compensation
 - c. Efficient scheduling and timing of my services to the client
 - d. Ease in translating particular legal and non-legal terms
 - e. Consistency between what is being interpreted at different points during phases of the justice proceedings
 - f. A clear process to avoid conflicts of interest
50. I experience the following barriers to doing my job effectively:
- i. Resistance from court personnel
 - ii. Inappropriate compensation
 - iii. Ineffective length of time before my services is available to the client
 - iv. Difficulty in translating particular legal and non-legal terms
 - v. Discrepancy between what is being interpreted at different points during phases of the justice proceedings
 - vi. A lack of clear process to avoid conflicts of interest

Thank you for taking time to complete this survey!

Please mail all completed surveys to:

**Sakhi for South Asian Women
P.O. Box 20208
New York, NY 10001**

Or e-mail them to:

Purvi.shah@sakhi.org

Or fax them back to 212-564-8745

As a follow-up to this initial survey, we would like to conduct focus groups. If you are interested in taking part in these groups or learning more about the *Justice Speaks* Task Force, please remove only this sheet from the survey to take with you.

To get further information, contact either of the *Justice Speaks* Task Force co-chairs listed below.

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