

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

## REQUESTING AN INTERPRETER

In a bankruptcy case, the parties are responsible for finding and providing interpreter services for court proceedings as well as communications between counsel and the parties. There are two very limited instances, outlined below, where the Court will provide interpreter services.

### LANGUAGE INTERPRETER:

When a bankruptcy proceeding is instituted by the United States, the Court will provide a spoken language interpreter for a party or witness who the judge determines speaks only or primarily a language other than English so as to inhibit that person's understanding or communication in the proceeding.

Matters instituted by the United States are defined as adversary proceedings initiated by agencies such as the:

- U.S. Trustee (UST);
- Internal Revenue Services (IRS);
- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC); and
- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

A meeting of creditors held pursuant to Section 341 of the Bankruptcy Code is presided over by the United States Trustee and is not considered a court proceeding. Participants should contact the [United States Trustee](#) to learn if interpreter services are available for a meeting of creditors.

To request a language interpreter for a court proceeding instituted by the United States in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of New York, complete an [Application for Spoken Language Interpreter in a Proceeding Instituted by the United States](#).

### SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER:

In **any** court proceeding the Court will provide a sign language interpreter or other auxiliary aids and services to a participant in the proceeding who is deaf, hearing-impaired or has a communication disability that inhibits that person's understanding or communication in the proceeding.

The Bankruptcy Court will give primary consideration to a participant's choice of auxiliary aid or service, unless another equally effective means of communication is available, or that

use of the means chosen would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the court proceeding or an undue financial or administrative burden.

Information on how to request a sign language interpreter or other appropriate auxiliary aids and services can be found in the Court's [Services Provided to Hearing-Impaired and Other Persons with Communication Disabilities](#).