



National Association of Judiciary  
Interpreters & Translators

## SCRIPT FOR WORKING WITH AN INTERPRETER IN A LEGAL SETTING

### 1. LET'S SPEAK TO EACH OTHER DIRECTLY AS IF THE INTERPRETER WEREN'T HERE



Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ will be acting as our voices and will interpret everything we say.

### 2. PLEASE ANSWER IN YOUR OWN LANGUAGE EVEN IF YOU SPEAK SOME ENGLISH



### 3. WAIT TO ANSWER UNTIL THE QUESTION HAS BEEN INTERPRETED COMPLETELY



-even if you understood what was said in English.  
This helps the process go more smoothly.

### 4. ANSWER QUESTIONS OUT LOUD USING WORDS



Always speak in a loud and clear voice. Do not answer with  
“uh-huh”, “uh-uh”, or nodding or shaking your head.

### 5. THE INTERPRETER MAY NEED TO INTERRUPT YOU ON A LONG ANSWER

If that happens, try to remember what you were going to say next so  
your response can be interpreted completely.

Remember: The interpreter is not allowed to have a private  
conversation with you or offer any opinion or advice.