



National Association of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators
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March 11, 2021

Hon. Daniel J. Anders, Supervising Judge
Trial Division – Civil
Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas
First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

In Re: [Protocols and Guidelines for Conducting In-Person Civil Jury Trials in City Hall During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Dear Supervising Judge Anders:

We commend your courts for developing and establishing protocols for conducting in-person jury trials, and having your courtrooms reconfigured to ensure proper social-distance seating of a minimum of six feet which comports with the CDC guidelines during the pandemic. Nonetheless, we found no mention of protocols or guidelines regarding court interpreters. We write to you with great concern about protecting the safety of court interpreters since many across the country have been infected with the corona virus and a few have died from it.

As you know, court interpreters usually sit right next to LEP litigants to interpret the proceedings into their languages. Moreover, interpreters interpret confidential consultations during a court's proceedings — most often sitting right next to the attorneys and their clients. We urge you to include protocols and guidelines to protect court interpreters from COVID-19 contagion while they serve the court's mandate to provide language access.

To assist your courts in putting in place the proper steps to be followed when using court interpreters during the pandemic, we refer you to the [NAJIT Suggested Guidelines for Interpreters Returning to Work in Courts Holding In Person Proceedings](#).

Please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions about how to keep court interpreters safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely yours,

Sandro Tomasi, chair of the Advocacy Committee
Robert Joe Lee, vice chair of the Advocacy Committee