Use of a licensed court interpreter in hearings can improve the:

- Spanish-speaker's ability to communicate;
- Quality of evidence available to the court; and
- Resolution of due process issues in the case.

Interpreting accurately and completely in a court setting requires advanced training and highly specialized skills. In counties with populations under 50,000, Texas law permits unlicensed interpreters in court proceedings, but the use of a licensed court interpreter is the best practice.

Hotline for TCRIS interpreters:
(512) 463-5656

interpreter@txcourts.gov
Fax: (512) 666-3633
Videoconference IP address:
168.39.176.26

OCA's Remote Interpreter Service is here to help you meet the needs of the Spanish-speaking public in the courtroom.

Section 72.024 of the Texas Government Code provides that OCA shall consult with and assist courts in the efficient administration of justice.

Office of Court Administration
205 W. 14th Street, Suite 600
Austin, Texas 78701-1614
www.txcourts.gov/oca

Revised: 02/23/2015

Office of Court Administration

Texas Court Remote Interpreter Service

Why should your court use TCRIS?

- One in every seven Texas residents has limited English proficiency (LEP), and 87% of these speak Spanish.
- Texas has about 500 licensed court interpreters, or one for every 6,700 LEP Texans.
- 191 of the state's 254 counties have no licensed court interpreter in residence.

How can TCRIS serve your court?

- ***Free*** Spanish interpretation services in district and county-level courtrooms and, as time and resources permit, in justice and municipal courts
  - By licensed court interpreters
  - In all case types
  - By telephone or by videoconferencing, using the court's existing equipment
  - By advanced scheduling or on demand, as available
  - For short, non-evidentiary hearings that are typically under 30 minutes (Services should be scheduled in larger blocks of time to account for the slower pace of interpreted hearings and unexpected delays.)
- ***Free*** Spanish translation services for court forms, orders, signs and other documents, as time permits.

How do you enroll and schedule services?

- Click on the *How to Enroll for Interpreter Services* link at www.txcourts.gov/tcris and follow the instructions.
- After enrollment, a staff interpreter will conduct a brief test of the court's speakerphone or videoconferencing system to ensure clear communication.
- OCA will e-mail the court a link to the online calendar and a password to schedule future interpretation.
- If Internet access is unavailable, OCA staff can help with these steps by phone or fax.
- More detailed information regarding enrollment, scheduling and use of interpretation services can be found at: www.txcourts.gov/tcris.

The primary goal of the Texas Court Remote Interpreter Service is to improve access to licensed, Spanish court interpreters, particularly in rural district and county-level courtrooms.

OCA Staff Interpreters

Leonardo Perales is a licensed court interpreter with seven years of court interpreting experience. He has provided interpretation services in Texas district and county-level courts, federal courts in Texas, and New Mexico district and magistrate courts. He has interpreted for many types of criminal, civil, and family law cases, ranging from short, non-evidentiary hearings to trials.

Maria de Villiers has 25 years of experience as a freelance, licensed court interpreter and translator. She has experience interpreting in a variety of courts, including federal courts and Texas district courts, county courts at law, and municipal courts. She has interpreted in court proceedings, ranging from short hearings to trials, in criminal, juvenile, civil, family law, and probate cases.