

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF:

)
)
)
)
)

**REDACTED¹
STANDING ORDER**

**SPANISH LANGUAGE
INTERPRETERS**

The Court Interpreters Act mandates that federal courts utilize a foreign language interpreter, certified as professionally qualified by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, in all judicial proceedings instituted by the United States. 28 U.S.C. § 1827. No persons residing in the District of North Dakota have been certified as professionally qualified in the Spanish language. One individual (Hal Sillers) lives within close proximity to the Eastern Division of this District and has been certified as professionally qualified in the Spanish language.

Based upon the statutory limitations imposed by the Speedy Trial Act, the high cost of travel to this rural state, and the inflexibility of telephone conference during judicial proceedings, this Court **FINDS** that a certified Spanish language interpreter is not reasonably available and that the services of an otherwise competent interpreter are necessary to preserve the rights of persons appearing before the Court who speak Spanish as a native language. See United States v. Gonzales, 339 F.3d 725 (8th Cir. 2003).

The Court has evaluated as wholly competent the Spanish language interpreting services provided by certain non-certified interpreters during judicial proceedings; notes the receipt of very favorable comments from the defense bar holding these interpreters in high regard; and **FINDS** that the following individuals are sufficiently language skilled to be considered “otherwise qualified” interpreters pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1827(b)(2) and Regulations of the Director of the Administrative

¹Requests for an unredacted version of this order should be directed to the Clerk of Court.

Office of the United States Courts Implementing the Court Interpreters Amendments Act of 1988,
Part III, Sec. 9. :

**B. D.L.C. and
B. J.**

IT IS ORDERED that the above-listed individuals shall be permitted to provide Spanish language interpreting services as an “otherwise qualified” interpreter until such time as a certified Spanish language interpreter resides in closer proximity to the Western and Eastern Divisions of the District and when the one professionally certified individual (Hal Sillers) within close proximity to the Eastern Division is unavailable. **IT IS ORDERED** that this Order shall expire on its own terms on January 15, 2025.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2024.

/s/ Peter D. Welte
Peter D. Welte, Chief Judge
United States District Court