

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

**SPANISH LANGUAGE
INTERPRETERS**

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**REDACTED¹
STANDING ORDER**

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. Only one person residing in the District of North Dakota 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 conferences during judicial proceedings, this Court **FINDS** that a certified Spanish language interpreter is not always 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

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

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

**J.E.
S.S., and
E.M.**

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 more certified Spanish language interpreters resides in the District or if the one professionally certified individual who resides within the district is unavailable. **IT IS ORDERED** that this Order shall expire on its own terms on January 15, 2027.

Dated this 16th day of January, 2026.

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