

**LOCAL RULE/POLICY
FOR DISTRICT COURTS ON APPOINTMENT OF SIGN LANGUAGE
INTERPRETERS IN CRIMINAL CASES**

An attorney representing a hearing-impaired criminal defendant shall bring his/her client's disability to the attention of the judge by written motion filed with the court or on the record. When the motion is brought to the attention of the court, the judge shall appoint a certified American Sign Language interpreter to act as the interpreter for the criminal defendant. The court may use any alternative to have an interpreter present in the courtroom that otherwise complies with the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of video interpreters or any other interpretation services when they become available in the future, so long as the interpreter is able to fully and capably communicate with the criminal defendant, the attorney for the criminal defendant and the court.

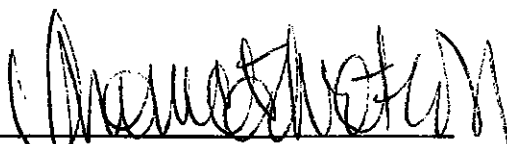
In accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure, the criminal defense attorney shall notify the court by written motion or on the record that interpreter services will be needed for any status conference, hearing, or any other judicial proceeding. Upon such motion, the court shall instruct his or her staff to schedule settings as soon as practicable to a date when the interpreter is available.

If a criminal defendant is to be placed on probation, the probation officer for the criminal defendant shall notify the court in writing, or on the record, if the criminal defendant's hearing impairment will in any way affect his or her ability to

meet all conditions of probation. The probation officer for the criminal defendant shall also inform the court of any available alternative programs that would allow the criminal defendant to participate in all probation programs. Upon said written notice, the court shall conduct a hearing to identify any disability-related issues preventing compliance with the conditions of probation and to include and/or modify conditions to include alternative means of ensuring compliance. Such alternative means may include, but are not limited to, alternative programs or options, or excusing the criminal defendant from particular terms and conditions of probation.



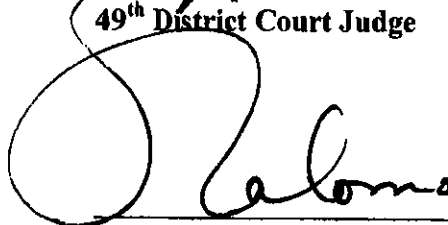
Oscar J. Hale, Jr.
406th District Court Judge
Local Administrative Judge



Monica Z. Notzon
111th District Court Judge



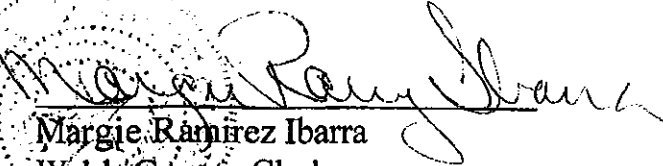
Jose A. Lopez
49th District Court Judge



Beckie Palomo
341st District Court Judge

COUNTY OF WEBB


ATTEST:


Margie Ramirez Ibarra
Webb County Clerk

SIGNED on, and **EFFECTIVE** as of, this 19th day of March, 2014.

I, Margie Ramirez Ibarra, County Clerk, Webb County, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy, as the same appears of record in my office,
Witness my hand and seal of office on

MAY - 1 2014

Margie Ramirez Ibarra
Webb County Clerk
By 
Deputy County Clerk

