

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Sutter Superior Court

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) PLAN

The Superior Court of Sutter County provides language access services to LEP court users consistent with the Strategic Plan for Language Access in California Courts (California Language Access Plan or LAP). This Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan addresses language access services and policies that affect LEP court users and language access procedures at our court.

1. Identification of LEP Persons

The top 5 non-English languages spoken in this area are:

- A. Spanish
- B. Punjabi
- C. Hmong
- D. Russian
- E. Lao

This information is based on data collected from the Court Interpreter’s Data Collection System (CIDCS).

2. Services Provided

Interpreters: The Court strives to provide free interpreters to all LEP court users for all court hearings and trials and court-ordered/court-operated events. Interpreters are provided at no cost for all criminal, traffic, and juvenile law cases. While we continue efforts towards providing interpreters in all civil matters, we are currently limiting interpreter provision as described below:

The court currently provides free interpreter services in civil matters, within the priorities established in Evidence Code Section 756, as follows:

- Priority 1: Domestic violence, civil harassment cases where there is no fee to file, Elder abuse cases where there is physical abuse or neglect
- Priority 2: Unlawful detainers (evictions)
- Priority 3: Termination of parental rights
- Priority 4: Guardianship and conservatorship
- Priority 5: Cases where one person is asking for sole custody or visitation
- Priority 6: Other civil harassment and elder abuse cases
- Priority 7: Other family law cases

In addition, the court provides free interpreters to all LEP persons for the following court events or programs:

- Family Court Services Mediation
- Facilitator Meetings

Bilingual Staff: The court has bilingual staff to help LEP users in their language in person, or by telephone. The languages currently spoken by the court's staff, in addition to English, include:

Spanish
Punjabi

When bilingual staff are not available, qualified interpreters are provided at the various points of contact with the court (such as clerk's offices, self-help centers, etc.). Staff court interpreters are preferred, whenever available, for in person interpretation. If not available, the court uses Language Line to provide for telephonic interpretation to assist in communications between staff and LEP persons.

Translated Written Information: The court provides multilingual information in the following ways:

- By providing links to the California Court's Online Self-Help Center <http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp.htm?rdeLocaleAttr=en> (English) and <http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp.htm?rdeLocaleAttr=es> (Spanish).
- Available Multilingual information/forms are available at:
Court's self-help center/family law facilitator's office

3. Notification of Language Access Services

Availability of I-Speak Cards at all public counters.

4. Education of Court Staff and Judicial Officers

As recommended in the California LAP, the Superior Court of California, County of Sutter provides education for court staff and judicial officers on: (1) language access laws, policies, and procedures at the state and local level.

In addition to court-wide training, court staff has access to tools for serving LEP court users, such as I-Speak Cards, multi-lingual employee listings, and Language Line.

5. Monitoring and Updating Local Language Access Services Policies

The court regularly monitors its language access services, policies and procedures, and all items included in this LEP Plan to assess whether any changes are needed. Updates to the webpage at www.suttercourts.com are performed yearly or more often if necessary to provide current up-to-date information for all court users.

6. Language Access Office

Any concerns and requests for information regarding this LEP Plan, its content, implementation, or the language access services provided by the Superior Court of California, County of Sutter should be directed to:

Language Access Office
Sutter County Superior Court
1175 Civic Center Boulevard
Yuba City, CA 95993
Telephone: (530) 822-3401
Email: InterpreterCoordinator@suttercourts.com

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