

QUICK SCRIPT TO ADDRESS REMOTE INTERPRETING PROBLEMS

For further information, please refer to the *Reference Packet for Quick Script* document. Below are suggested scripts for different situations that may arise. It is advisable that you print this on one page as a double-sided document that you can carry with you throughout your work day.

FATIGUE

(In any remote interpreting situation: MOU indicates rest or team interpreting for simultaneous lasting more than 35 minutes. There may be instances when you are interpreting in consecutive mode; the MOU indicates rest or team interpreting for consecutive lasting more than 50 minutes. Remote interpreting requires shorter periods of working time from 15-20 minutes.)

Option 1: Your Honor, the interpreter has been interpreting for X minutes and respectfully requests a break. *(If you are ordered to continue, later, but before you're overwhelmed, try Option 2)*

Option 2: Your Honor, due to fatigue, I am no longer able to continue with the level of accuracy commensurate with my oath and interpreter ethics. Again, I respectfully request a break.

Option 3: Your Honor, the interpreter's concentration is waning from fatigue. I respectfully request your clerk call for a relief interpreter.

(If confronted by a judge who simply WILL NOT give anyone breaks, this is a measure that usually works when all else fails.)

Option 4: Your Honor, please pardon the interruption, but the interpreter needs a bathroom break.

AUDIBILITY

(If you can't hear it, you can't interpret it. Do not pretend that you can! In Article 22, Section 1 of the MOU, in California Rules of Court 2.890(h), and on page 33 of the Ethics Manual, an interpreter is obligated to disclose any impediments, and cannot be disciplined because of it.)

Option 1: Your Honor, the interpreter is unable to clearly hear the speaker. May you please instruct the speaker to have the desk microphone five inches from their mouth?

Option 2: Your Honor, the interpreter is unable to clearly hear the speaker with the present computer's internal microphone. May you please inquire if the speaker has a stand-alone or headset microphone instead?

Option 3: Your Honor, the interpreter is unable to clearly hear the speaker because of feedback/echo. May you please inquire if the speaker has a stand-alone or headset microphone instead?

Option 4: Your Honor, the interpreter is unable to clearly hear the speaker due to background noise. May the interpreter have a moment to ask the participant *(identify the party)* to move to a quieter location, or mute their microphone?

Option 5: Your Honor, the audio is completely unintelligible. Consequently, the Interpreter is unable to render a complete and accurate interpretation of the proceedings.

***SIGHT TRANSLATION**

(You are not going to be able to sight translate a document through the video camera ... do not even try!

All documents for sight translation in remote interpreting must be emailed to you, or otherwise shared with you, for your review before even attempting to render the sight translation. The sight translation document must be relatively short, and you must be confident that the level of complexity is such that you can perform an accurate rendition into the other language. Otherwise inform the court that a formal written translation is necessary to ensure accuracy because of length, terminology, or complexity of syntax.)

Universal Option: Your Honor, the interpreter will need X minutes to read the document before he/she is able to consider sight translating it. *(Take the time necessary to decide if you can or cannot do it.)*

**Please refer to the five-page "Reference Packet for Quick Script" attached document for more strategies corresponding to different situations.*

WITNESS WITHOUT PREPARATION

*(The Union advises great caution when performing remote interpretation for witnesses, which in many situations is not appropriate. We are presently in negotiations over that issue. If you are not able to render an accurate interpretation when ordered to proceed, regardless of what the difficulty is, you must make that impediment clearly known to the bench officer; an interpreter runs the risk of discipline or even having their certification suspended for not complying with their oath to render a true and accurate interpretation. Whether interpreted remotely, or in person, you have a right to request a *preappearance interview" under California Rules of Court, Standards of Judicial Administration, Standard 2.10(e), as well as MOU Article 22, Section 3.)*

Option 1: Your Honor, may the interpreter request a *preappearance interview under Standard 2.10(e)?

**In the actual text of the Rule of Court, Standard of Judicial Administration, "preappearance" appears as one word without a hyphen. It is for that reason that "pre" and "appearance" are written together as one word in this document.*

