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# **Walworth County Circuit Court Language Access Plan**

## **I. Purpose**

This Language Access Plan (LAP) outlines how the Walworth County Circuit Court effectively allocates and regulates its resources, services, and administrative operations to maintain compliance with federal and state language access requirements.

## **II. Policy Directive**

The Walworth County Circuit Court is dedicated to providing limited English proficient (LEP) individuals with timely and meaningful access to all court activities and programs in accordance with federal and state mandates. Specific federal laws include Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VI"), Executive Order 13166, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Section 601 of Title VI, 42 U.S.C. Section 2000d *et. seq.* states:

"No person in the United States shall on the ground of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

## **III. Definitions**

### **Limited English Proficiency (LEP)**

1. The inability, because of the use of a language other than English, to adequately understand or communicate effectively in English in a court proceeding.
2. The inability, due to a speech impairment, hearing loss, deafness, deaf-blindness, or other disability, to adequately hear, understand, or communicate effectively in English in a court proceeding. (Wis. Stat. §885.38(1)(b)1-2))

### **Interpreting/Interpretation**

The oral conversion from one language to another language.

### **Qualified Interpreter**

A person who is able to do all of the following:

1. Readily communicate with a person who has LEP.
2. Orally transfer the meaning of statements to and from English and the language spoken by a person who has limited English proficiency in the context of a court proceeding.
3. Readily and accurately interpret for a person who has LEP, without omissions or additions, in a manner that conserves the meaning, tone, and style of the original statement, including dialect, slang, and specialized vocabulary. (Wis. Stat. 885.38(1)(c))

### **Remote Interpreting (RI)**

Providing interpreting services using technology where the interpreter is at a location physically separate from the consumers of the interpreting service. Remote interpreting can be provided using audio only or audio and video technologies.

### **Sight Translation/Sight Translate**

The act of reading a document written in one language while converting it orally into another language.