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Court Reporter Member

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Court Reporter Member

Vacant
Public Member

**STATE OF NEVADA
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS BOARD**

5135 Camino Al Norte, Suite 270
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89031
Phone: 702-489-8787

Email: NVCCRB@gmail.com Website: crpr.nv.gov

LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN

I. Purpose and Authority

The State of Nevada Certified Court Reporters Board agrees that language should not be a barrier to accessing governmental services. In accordance to Nevada Senate Bill 318 (SB 318), “persons with limited English proficiency require and deserve meaningful, timely access to government services in their preferred language.” Pursuant to NRS 656.020, the practice of court reporting in the State of Nevada is declared to affect the public health, safety and welfare and is subject to regulation and control in the public interest. We are committed to complying with Nevada SB 318 and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 2 C.S. § 561 et seq. (Act 172 of 2006) to ensure meaningful access to State services and programs for individuals with limited English proficiency.

The purpose of this document is to establish an effective plan and protocol for the staff of the State of Nevada Certified Court Reporters Board to follow when providing services to, or interacting with, individuals who have limited English proficiency. Following this plan and protocol is essential to the success of our mission to protect the public health, safety and welfare in the public interest.

II. General Policy

The State of Nevada Certified Court Reporters Board recognizes that the population eligible to receive services may include limited English proficiency (LEP) individuals. The Board recognizes the importance of linguistic diversity and strive to eliminate language barriers that may impede access to our services. It is our policy to ensure LEP individuals can gain equal access to the services the Board provides and regulates. The Board is committed to fairness and will take all reasonable steps to provide LEP individuals with meaningful access to all its services.

III. Profile of Clients of the Certified Court Reporters Board

The State of Nevada Certified Court Reporters Board’s primary service is licensing and regulating certified court reporters and court reporting firms. All applicants must meet the eligibility requirements to obtain their certificate or license to practice court reporting in Nevada as outlined in NRS Chapter 656. The Board collects specific demographic information of their licensees; however, it does not include preferred languages, literacy levels and whether they identify as indigenous or as a refugee.

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IV. Certified Court Reporters Board Language Access Services and Procedures

The State of Nevada Certified Court Reporters Board does not have any known LEP applicants or licensees. To date, the Board has not received a request for translation or American Sign Language Services from LEP applicants, licensees or the public. The preferred language of those seeking services from the Board is English. It is noted on all meeting notices, any individual seeking assistance may contact the Board's office to make arrangements. The Board's website provides a Google link for language translation. The Board will monitor preferred languages to ensure meaningful communication can be provided to LEP individuals.

V. Implementing the Certified Court Reporters Board's Language Access Services

The State of Nevada Certified Court Reporters Board is committed to providing our LEP individuals full access to our services. The Board and its staff will seek training to implement procedures to ensure individuals will have access to available language services.

VI. Evaluation of and Recommendations for the Certified Court Reporters Board's Language Access Plan

The State of Nevada Certified Court Reporters Board will continue to oversee the procedures to ensure all individuals are receiving access to the Board services. The Executive Secretary of the Board will examine and continue to develop procedures to respond to the changing needs.

This is the Board's first submission for a Language Access Plan, we have no revisions. The Board is funded from fees collected from licensees and does not receive funds from the State General Fund. Based on the absence of need for language access in the past, the Board does not anticipate the need to seek funding for language access services for the 24/25 biennium.

Suggested Legislative Amendments:

Regulatory Boards that do not have the staff capacity to perform language access roles could benefit from a state assigned liaison that works for the Governor's Office of New Americans to provide those services for the Boards on an as needed basis.

Public Comments:

Comments will be collected at the October 29, 2024 open meeting and will be added to this plan.