

STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF FORT BEND

**ORDER SETTING AMENDED RATES FOR
FORT BEND COUNTY COURT INTERPRETERS FEES PURSUANT TO
TEXAS CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ART. 38.30(c)**

On this the _____ day of _____ 2026, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County, Texas, sitting as the governing body of Fort Bend County, upon motion of Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____ duly put and carried;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, in accordance with Article 38.30(c) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, to set the rates for Fort Bend County Court interpreters in criminal proceedings as attached herein as Exhibit “A”, Amended Rates for Court Interpreters for Fort Bend County Courts at Law and District Courts, to be effective _____, 2026.

FORT BEND COUNTY

By: _____
Daniel Wong, County Judge

ATTEST:

Laura Richard, County Clerk

EXHIBIT A

**FORT BEND COUNTY OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS – AMENDED FEE SCHEDULE
FOR COURT INTERPRETERS**

SPANISH					
Hearings/Bench Trials	MASTER Texas Government Code §§ 157.101(d)(2)	BASIC Texas Government Code §§ 157.101(d)(1)	QUALIFIED Texas Government Code §§ 57.002(d)	MAGISTRATE WEEKEND/RATES	MAGISTRATE HOLIDAYS (New Years Day, Independence day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day)
In-person *Two-hour minimum	\$100/hr. \$25 for each additional 15-minute increment.	N/A	N/A	N/A	
<p align="center"><i>*For in-person hearings/ bench trials there will be a two-hour minimum. Hearings exceeding the two-hour minimum shall be paid at the rate shown above in 15-minute increments.</i></p> <p align="center"><i>These proceedings require a Master Licensed Court Interpreter at all times.</i></p>					
Remote * One-hour minimum	\$100/hr. \$25 for each additional 15-minute increment.	N/A	N/A	\$100/hr. Hearings exceeding the one-hour minimum shall be paid at a rate of \$25 for each additional 15-minute increment.	\$120/hr. Hearings exceeding the one-hour minimum shall be paid at a rate of \$30 for each additional 15-minute increment. (New Years Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day)
<p align="center"><i>*For remote hearings/bench trials there will be a one-hour minimum. Hearings exceeding the one-hour minimum shall be paid at the rate shown above in 15-minute increments.</i></p>					
JURY TRIALS (In-person)					
Half-day 4 hrs.	\$400	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Full day 8 hrs. (Not including lunch)	\$800	N/A	N/A	N/A	
<p align="center"><i>In-person Jury trials require a team of two (2) MASTER LICENSED COURT INTERPRETERS.</i></p>					
Court Services Other than Hearings or Trials (Interviews, Mental Health Assessments, etc.)					
Specialty Court Programs - Flat rate - \$70/hr. (one-hour min.)					
Telephonic rates *15-min. minimum	\$1.50/minute	\$1.00/minute	N/A	N/A	
<p align="center"><i>*Telephonic hearings or Court services exceeding the 15-minute minimum shall be paid at the rate stated above in one (1) minute increments.</i></p>					

FORT BEND COUNTY OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS – AMENDED FEE SCHEDULE FOR COURT INTERPRETERS

IDENTIFIED COMMON LANGUAGES OTHER THAN SPANISH (ARABIC, CHINESE, GUJARATI, HINDI, MALAYALAM, TAGALOG, URDU, VIETNAMESE)					
Hearings/Bench trials	MASTER Texas Government Code 157.101(d)(2)	BASIC Texas Government Code 157.101(d)(1)	QUALIFIED Texas Government Code 57.002(d)	MAGISTRATE WEEKEND RATES	MAGISTRATE HOLIDAYS (New Years Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day)
In-person *Two-hour minimum	\$120/hr. \$30 each additional 15-minute increment.	\$85/hr. \$21.25 each additional 15-minute increment.	\$60/hr. \$15 each additional 15-minute increment.	N/A	
<p><i>(*) For in person hearings/jury trials there will be a two (2) Hour minimum. Hearings exceeding the two-hour minimum shall be paid at the rate shown above in 15-minute increments.</i></p> <p><i>These proceedings require a Master Licensed Court Interpreter when applicable. Basic/Qualified interpreters will be considered upon their credentials and experience.</i></p>					
Remote *One-hour minimum	\$120/hr. \$30 each additional 15-minute increment.	\$85/hr. \$21.25 each additional 15-minute increment.	\$60/hr. \$15 each additional 15-minute increment.	\$120/hr. Hearings exceeding the one-hour minimum shall be paid at a rate of \$30 for each additional 15-minute increment.	\$125/hr. Hearings exceeding the one-hour minimum shall be paid at a rate of \$31.25 for each additional 15-minute increment. (New Years Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day)
<p><i>For remote hearings/bench trials there will be a one-hour minimum. Hearings exceeding the one-hour minimum shall be paid at the rate shown above in 15-minute increments.</i></p>					
JURY TRIALS (in-person)					
Half-day 4 Hrs.	\$480	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Full day 8 Hrs. (Not including lunch)	\$960	N/A	N/A	N/A	
<p><i>In-Person Jury trials require a team of Master Licensed Court Interpreters (when applicable for those languages certifiable by JBCC (Judicial Branch of Certification Commission))</i></p>					
Court Services Other than Hearings or Trials (Interviews, Health Assessments, etc.)					
Telephonic rates *15-min. minimum	\$1.75/minute	\$1.40/minute	\$1.00/minute	N/A	
<p><i>*Telephonic hearings or Court services exceeding the 15-minute minimum shall be paid at the rate stated above in one (1) minute increments.</i></p>					

**FORT BEND COUNTY OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS – AMENDED FEE SCHEDULE
FOR COURT INTERPRETERS**

CANCELLATION FEES TO BE PAID BY THE OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS	
<i>Every effort will be made by the Court to provide advance notice of cancellations. Where cancellations are made with less than 24 hour-notice (excluding official County holidays and weekends). The Office of Language Access shall pay contracted interpreters at the following rates:</i>	
In-Person hearings cancellations by the Court with less than 24-hour notice.	\$200 or two-hour minimum
Remote hearings cancellations by the Court with less than 24-hour notice	\$100 or one-hour minimum
Half-day Jury trial cancellations by the Court with less than 24-hour notice	\$400 or Half-day (4 hours)
Full-day Jury trial cancellations by the Court with less than 24-hour notice.	\$800 or Full-day (8 hours) or rate of the first day scheduled.

No fee shall be paid by the Courts for cancellations made at least 24 hours prior. A court interpreter is deemed advised of cancellation when a court’s designated official delivers the notice of cancellation to the email address or phone number provided by the court interpreter.

OVERTIME
Will be paid only when an assignment exceeds a full day (8hrs), not including lunch or dinner periods, and are applicable to any hour or fraction thereof exceeding eight (8) hours. Overtime compensation will be in fifteen-minute increments at <u>one and a half (1.5) times the hourly rate.</u>

ALL OTHER LANGUAGES - LANGUAGES OF LESSER DIFFUSION
Interpreter fees for less common languages are subject to flexibility depending upon market rates and other variables. The Court may negotiate in good faith to agree on a mutually acceptable interpreter service fee. The agreed upon rate shall be presented to the Court for approval. Based on current market standards, Interpreters appointed will receive a sum not to exceed \$1,200 for a full day of service at the discretion of the judge presiding. This rate shall be a maximum of \$150.00 per hour and shall follow the same standards provided in the fee schedule.

FORT BEND COUNTY OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS – AMENDED FEE SCHEDULE FOR COURT INTERPRETERS

Interpreters may be entitled to travel expenses for miles traveled to and from the Courthouse from their residence or office. Expenses shall be charged on a per-mile basis and shall apply to miles traveled between the Contract Court Interpreter's residence or office (whichever is closest) and the location where the assignment will take place.

To be entitled to receive a travel reimbursement, the contract court interpreter must be on an ACTIVE assignment with Fort Bend County Courts. Travel expenses will not be paid if the court interpreter's residence or office is less than 30 miles from the court location.

No mileage shall be paid for non-traveled miles.

All travel, mileage, and lodging (including approved meals) expenses will be set in accordance with the rate approved by Commissioners Court and as listed in the Fort Bend County Travel Policy in effect at the time services are rendered.