

Rhode Island Office of Court Interpreters (OCI)
Monitoring and Reporting of Language Access Services
October 2, 2026

The following report is submitted in compliance with Supreme Court Executive Order 2012-05 (EO) on Language Access activities for the period beginning on January 1, 2025 and ending on December 31, 2025.

The following information addresses subsections described on Page 6, Paragraph H of the EO.

Overview of Language Services in Calendar Year 2025

This year, the efforts of the OCI to increase and maintain a pool of qualified interpreters were successful, and the Judiciary was able to provide language services in rare languages, such as Hmong, Wolof, Yoruba, and Q'eqchi amongst others. The OCI translated several court documents and/or forms as requested by several offices within the Rhode Island Judiciary (Judiciary). At the closing of the calendar year, no further policies or procedures were identified as needed to implement the EO.

The OCI provided services in cases where interpreters had been requested by court staff, attorneys, or parties to a case. These services were provided in all four (4) counties in criminal and civil matters and included interpretation, translation, sight translation, and court information provided in languages spoken by court users. Interpreting services were provided in multiple modalities, including in-person, over the phone, or online via Webex to meet the demand. An overview of instances where interpreters were not immediately available is provided below:

Interpreter Availability

During this reporting period, there were seven (7) cases delayed due to unavailability of a qualified or certified interpreter. Delays resulted from interpreters being unavailable, rare language interpreters being unavailable, a wrong language request, or lack of interpreter request. The languages where delays were reported were Arabic, Haitian, Laotian, Quiche, Russian, and Vietnamese.

Where appropriate, and at the discretion of the court, an over-the-phone interpreter (OPI) or a remote interpreter via Webex video-conferencing afforded court users with alternate options to access language services. The OCI utilizes the

Council of Language Access Coordinators (CLAC) to meet the demand for court interpreters for rare languages or languages other than Spanish. In addition, the OCI works with neighboring state coordinators, primarily from Connecticut and Massachusetts, to identify and recruit vendor interpreters to meet the demand for rare language interpreters and/or for interpreters of languages other than Spanish. The chart below depicts a breakdown of reported instances where an interpreter was not immediately available.

	Civil	Criminal	Total
Interpreter not available	2	1	3
Interpreter cancelled	0	0	0
Interpreter delayed	0	0	0
Interpreter not scheduled	1	0	1
Late request	1	1	2
Wrong language requested	1	0	1
	5	2	7

Language Services by Language Spoken

In 2025, the Judiciary provided a total of 12,175 language service events. Language services were provided in twenty-seven (27) languages. The six (6) most requested languages were Spanish (11,156), followed by Cape Verdean Creole (607), Portuguese (221), Mandarin (31), Haitian (28), and Quiché (19). This year the OCI also provided services in some rare languages such as Hmong, Yoruba, and Wolof. All language providers are classified as certified or qualified interpreters or bilingual staff, the latter authorized to provide services in court operations only.

The chart below depicts number of services provided per language per event. All services shown on the chart below were provided by four (4) certified staff interpreters, five (5) qualified staff interpreters, two (2) seasonal qualified staff interpreters, twenty-three (23) bilingual staff, four (4) certified individual contractors, sixteen (16) qualified individual contractors, and four (4) corporate contractors approved by the state to be on the State's Master Price Agreement List. All interpreters and contractors reside in Rhode Island or nearby states.

Language	Events
Arabic	14
Cambodian	15
Cantonese	3
Cape Verdean Creole	607
Farsi	2
French	11
Haitian (<i>French Creole</i>)	28
Hmong	1
Japanese	2
Laotian	10
Liberian English	1
Mandarin	31
Nepali	3
Pashtu	2
Polish	5
Portuguese	221
Quiché/Q'eqchi'	19
Russian	16
Spanish	11,156
Swahili	2
Thai	1
Turkish	7
Ukrainian	2
Vietnamese	14
Wolof	1
Yoruba	1
	12,175

Language Services by Court

Language services were provided in all four (4) counties and courts in the Supreme, Superior, Family, District, Workers' Compensation, and the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal. In addition to services in courtrooms, the OCI also provided language services in ancillary offices such as Juvenile Services, Mediation Unit, Pre-Trial Services, Probation, Resource Center, and Court Supervised Visitations. The chart below depicts the number of language access services by court.

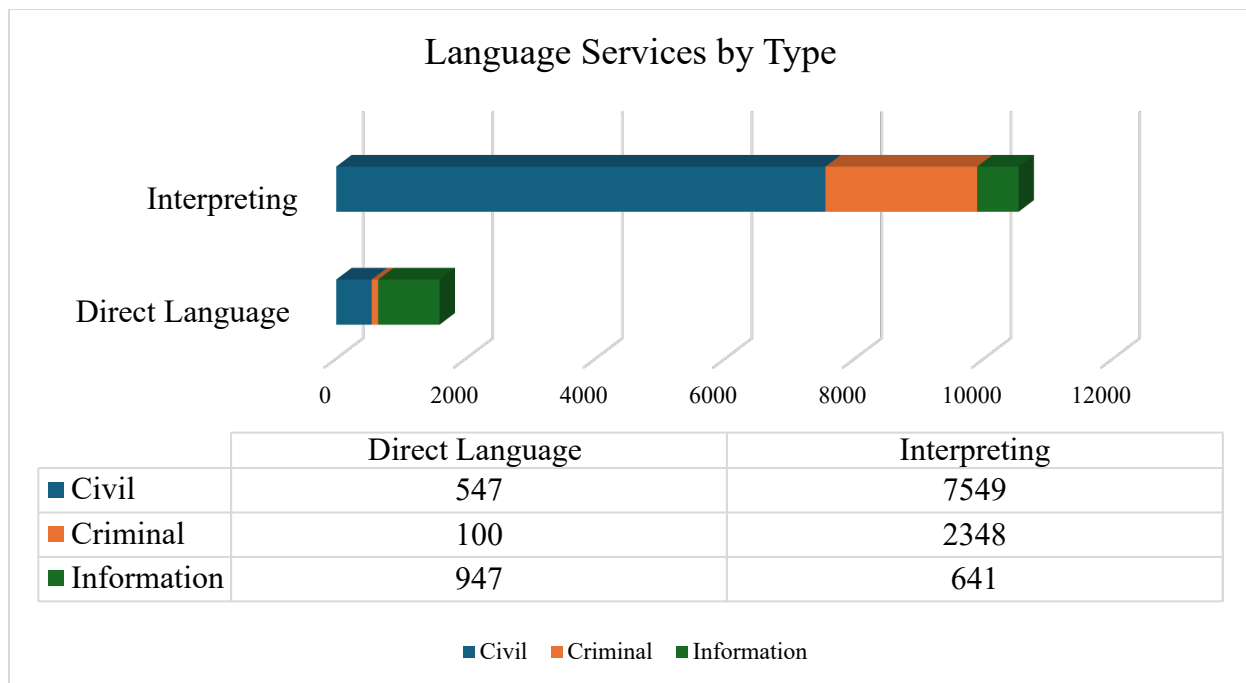
District Court	2,698
Family Court	3,550
Juvenile Civil	690
Juvenile Criminal	276
Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal	3,735
Superior Court	830
Supreme Court	4
Workers' Compensation Court	380
Uncategorized Cases	12
	12,175

Language Services by Matter or Event

In this report, ***interpreting services*** reflects events where a court staff interpreter or approved vendor utilized consecutive or simultaneous interpreting to facilitate communication between a non-English speaker and an English speaker. In 2025, interpreting services were provided in 10,538 separate instances in civil matters, criminal matters, and court users seeking general information. In addition to the above, court interpreters conducted three (3) sight translations.

In this report, ***direct language services*** reflect events where a staff member designated as ***bilingual*** communicated directly with court users in languages other than English in court operations. In 2025, direct language services were provided in 1,594 instances.

In this report, ***translation services*** reflect events where a document has been translated from one language to another. This generally occurs when a court form is translated from English into Spanish for reference purposes. In 2025, the Judiciary oversaw the translation of forty (40) court related materials and/or forms. These translations were performed by certified American Translation Association translators. The Language Access Plan and EO, and the respective translations into Spanish, continue to be available on the Rhode Island Judiciary's website. The Judiciary maintains a list of downloadable court forms translated into Spanish and are available on the Judiciary's website. The charts below depict the full breakdown of events by case type and language service events.



	Civil	Criminal	Information	Total
Interpreting	7,549	2,348	641	10,538
Direct Language Services – <i>Bilingual Staff</i>	547	100	947	1,594
Sight Translation	2	0	1	3
Transcriptions	0	0	0	0
Presentations	0	0	0	0
Translations	27	6	7	40
Other	0	0		0
Total Language Access Events	8,125	2,454	1,596	12,175
<i>Row headers (Civil, Criminal, Information, and Total) reflect type of matter. Column headers (Interpreting, Direct Language Services – Bilingual Staff, Sight Translation, Transcriptions, Presentations, Translations, and Other) reflect the language service provided.</i>				

Language Access Complaints

During the 2025 calendar year, the Judiciary received no complaints regarding the provision of language services. The Judiciary continues to have the Language Assistance Complaint form available on the Judiciary’s website. This form describes the process of filing an administrative complaint, where to send the form, what steps the Judiciary takes to resolve the issue, and the time allowed for the Administrative Office of State Courts to respond.

Language Access Trainings and Community Outreach

During the 2025 calendar year, the Access to Justice Office provided four (4) scheduled trainings on language access services for court interpreters, judicial officers, and members of the Rhode Island bar.

The Judiciary continues to partner with community agencies, higher education institutions, and other related agencies to identify individuals with abilities to become qualified or certified interpreters, especially in those languages considered rare. In addition, the Access to Justice Office has expanded the internship program to include opportunities for college students with a specific career interest in court interpreting to intern at the Judiciary. In 2025, the Access to Justice Office placed two (2) college interns with the OCI to explore the potential career pathway within the Judiciary. The Judiciary continues to address reciprocity of qualified and certified interpreters from other states, and the OCI coordinator participated in a monthly reciprocity workgroup with eight (8) other Eastern region state court coordinators to advance court interpreter reciprocity amongst the different state courts.

Court Interpreter Credentialing

The Judiciary remains committed to increasing the pool of skilled interpreters through interpreter credentialing. In 2025, the Judiciary proctored the National Center for State Courts certification examination twice, which consists of a written examination and an oral examination. Applicants must receive a passing score on the written examination before sitting for the oral examination. In May 2025, nineteen (19) candidates sat for the written exam and twelve (12) candidates sat for the oral examination. In December 2025, ten (10) candidates sat for the written examination, and fifteen (15) candidates sat for the oral examination. In 2025, the Judiciary qualified one (1) interpreter and certified four (4) interpreters.

An updated list of authorized interpreters, translators, and bilingual staff is available from the OCI. This list includes the names, languages, and type of designation held by these professionals.

Language Access Expenses

The following table indicates a breakdown of the Judiciary expenses in the provision of language services during the period covering January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

	Wages and Benefits	Stipends	Fees for Services
Full-time Staff	\$ 990,853.08		
Seasonal Staff	\$ 46,872.06		
Bilingual Staff		\$ 31,875.00	
Vendors			\$ 126,467.33

Conclusion

The Judiciary remains committed to ensuring that court users with limited English proficiency have meaningful access to Judiciary services, programs, and proceedings. The Judiciary looks forward to reporting the OCI's progress in the next monitoring report.

Respectfully submitted,
Access to Justice Office
October 2, 2026