

**In the Iowa Supreme Court**

CLERK SUPREME COURT

**Request for Public Comment )  
on Proposed Amendments to )  
Chapter 47, Court Interpreter )  
and Translator Rules )**

**Order**

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The state court administrator’s office has submitted proposed amendments to Chapter 47, Court Interpreter and Translator Rules, to the Iowa Supreme Court. The amendments include:

- Establishing a procedure for applying for an interpreter in an appellate case.
- Clarifying one of the exceptions to the priorities for selecting a court interpreter.
- Expanding the use of remote audio and video interpreter services.
- Modifying the procedure for appointing remote interpreters for initial appearances in criminal cases.
- Requiring defined roles in court orders appointing interpreters.
- Clarifying the criteria for a voluntary waiver of separate interpreters for separate limited English proficient (LEP) parties in a case.
- Adding additional procedures with respect to the use of multiple interpreters for a proceeding.
- Eliminating the annual continuing education reporting fee for interpreters.
- Requiring more detail when submitting an application for written translation of court-related materials and expanding the role of district court administration in the location, selection, and payment of translators for these materials.
- Establishing new procedures for the interpretation of legally binding documents.

The proposed amendments to Iowa Court Rules chapter 47, Court Interpreter and Translator Rules, are provided with this order and are available on the judicial branch website at <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/supreme-court/orders/>. In addition, copies of the proposed amendments are available at the office of the Clerk of the Iowa Supreme Court.

The supreme court's request for public comment does not imply that the court will adopt any proposed amendment without further consideration.

Any interested organization, agency, or person may submit written comments. Comments about a proposed rule amendment must refer to the specific rule number and line number (for example, rule 47.3(2), lines 17-19). Email comments must be sent to **rules.comments@iowacourts.gov**, must state "**Chapter 47 Amendments**" in the subject line of the email, and must be sent **as an attachment to the email in Microsoft Word format**. Instead of submission by email, comments may be delivered in person or mailed to the Clerk of the Iowa Supreme Court, 1111 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319.

Any comments received may be posted on the Iowa Judicial Branch website.

**The deadline for submitting comments is 4:30 p.m. on May 8, 2020.**

Dated this 9th day of March, 2020.

**The Supreme Court of Iowa**

By



Susan Christensen, Chief Justice