

In the Iowa Supreme Court

In the Matter of the Language Access in the Courts Advisory Committee	Order
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In September 2017, upon recommendation from the Iowa Access to Justice Commission, the Iowa Supreme Court appointed the Language Access in the Courts Advisory Committee (advisory committee) pursuant to Iowa Court Rule 47.9. The advisory committee provides guidance to the court and state court administrator regarding language access policies in the courts and assists the Iowa Judicial Branch Language Access Services Office in administering the court interpreter and disciplinary systems for court interpreters.

The order establishing the advisory committee required the committee each year to submit a report identifying the committee’s three highest priorities for improving language access in the state courts for the following fiscal year. Beginning in 2022, the Language Access Services Office has also provided the court with a comprehensive language access annual report. The annual report includes relevant language access data for a single year with comparative data from one or more prior reports to show changes from a prior year or multi-year trends. The report also includes a comprehensive year in review section highlighting key trends and accomplishments, interpreter payment information and case types, and certification and testing information.

This order clarifies the reporting duties of the advisory committee. In lieu of a yearly report identifying priorities for the following year as the court originally directed upon establishment of the advisory committee, the committee should continue submitting the Language Access Services Office annual reports on or before June 1 with substantially the same content as it has since 2022, in addition to any recommendations or reports to the court, state court administrator, or the director of the Language Access Services Office as the committee deems appropriate.

Dated this 2nd day of April, 2026.

The Iowa Supreme Court

By: 

Susan Larson Christensen, Chief Justice