



north dakota
department of
human services

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Child Support Division
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Jack Dalrymple, Governor
Maggie D. Anderson, Executive Director

April 16, 2015

Penny Miller
Clerk of the Supreme Court
600 E. Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0530

Re: Proposed Amendments/Interpreters

Dear Clerk Miller:

I am writing on behalf of the Child Support Division of the Department of Human Services to indicate our support for the proposed amendments to court rules and policy regarding interpreters.

We would like to suggest two additions to the list of case types for which a free interpreter will be provided (N.D. Sup. Ct. Admin. R. 50(2)(A)):

- **For limited English proficiency litigants and witnesses in contempt of court cases under N.D.C.C. ch. 27-10.** A finding of contempt of court can result in significant penalties, including imprisonment. Authorizing a free interpreter, when appropriate, in contempt cases would be consistent with authorizing a free interpreter in criminal cases.
- **For limited English proficiency litigants and witnesses in paternity cases under N.D.C.C. ch. 14-20.** A paternity determination can have significant implications, including child support, residential responsibility, and parenting time. Authorizing a free interpreter, when appropriate, in paternity cases would be consistent with authorizing a free interpreter in divorce cases and would eliminate disparate treatment under the rule based on marital status.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at 328-7533 or by email at poberst@nd.gov.

Sincerely,

Paulette Oberst
Assistant Director for Policy/Lead Attorney

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