

WAC 308-111-190 Interpreters. (1) When the petitioner in an administrative interview has a hearing or speech impairment, cannot readily understand or communicate in a spoken language or is a non-English speaking person, the department shall appoint an interpreter to assist the petitioner during the administrative interview.

(2) The department is responsible for the cost of the interpreter pursuant to RCW 2.43.040.

(3) The department shall use interpreters certified by the administrative office of the courts unless good cause is found and noted on the record by the referee. Good cause includes, but is not limited to, the determination that:

(a) Given the totality of the circumstances, including the nature of the proceeding and the potential penalty or consequences involved, the services of a certified interpreter are not reasonably available to the department; or

(b) The current list of certified interpreters maintained by the administrative office of the courts does not include an interpreter certified in the language spoken by the non-English-speaking person.

(4) If good cause is found for using a qualified interpreter, the referee shall make a preliminary determination on the record, that the proposed interpreter:

(a) Is capable of communicating with the referee and the petitioner; and

(b) Has read, understands, and will abide by the code of ethics for language interpreters established by court rules.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.01.110 and 46.20.245. WSR 25-03-018, s 308-111-190, filed 1/6/25, effective 2/6/25.]