

NOTICE TO THE BAR

Assessment of Interpreter Fees by the Court Vicinage 13 – Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties (Amendment to previous notice)

Vicinage 13 will continue to enforce the assessment of interpreter fees to attorneys or pro se parties when unnecessary interpreting costs are incurred by the Court as set forth in Administrative Directive #3-04 issued by the Administrative Director of the Courts. Matters involving pro se parties will be reviewed on a case by case basis, taking into account whether they were clearly made aware in advance of the obligation to notify the Court of cancellations and considering their ability to pay.

The following general guidelines will be used to determine if an attorney or pro se party should be ordered to reimburse the Judiciary for part or all of the actual expenses incurred for unnecessary interpreting cost:

1. The matter is settled before the interpreter's services are needed and the party who requested the interpreter could have notified the Court at least three (3) full business days in advance* and such notice would have allowed for cancellation of the interpreting assignment at no cost to the Court.
2. The attorney or pro se party who requested the interpreter fails to appear and was negligent in providing such advance notice or had no reasonable grounds for failure to appear.
3. The attorney or pro se party who requested the interpreter was negligent in requesting an adjournment on the same date of the matter and could have notified the Court in advance of such request.

Date: May 25, 2005

Issued by: /s/ Graham T. Ross
GRAHAM T. ROSS, A.J.S.C.

NOTE: **Attorneys should check with the appropriate Division Interpreting Liaisons/designee for the exact information on the advance notice required to avoid unnecessary costs to the Court on each particular case. Advance notice/cancellation fees vary (some cases may require less/more notice but generally the cancellation costs will increase with less advance notice to the Courts).*

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