SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MADERA

Notice of Party Responsibility Regarding Indigenous Language Interpreters

During the past several years the number of litigants requiring the services of indigenous language interpreters has significantly increased. Many indigenous languages have numerous variants that prevent persons who identify as speaking the same language from being able to communicate with each other. When this occurs, hearings must be continued to retain an appropriate interpreter and the litigant's right to a speedy resolution of his or her matter is delayed.

Beginning January 1, 2026, General Order No. 2025-02, requires:

It is the responsibility of each attorney representing persons who require the services of an indigenous language interpreter, or self-represented litigant, to communicate with the Madera County Superior Court's interpreter coordinator no less than five (5) court days before any hearing regarding the appropriate indigenous language variant required for the litigant to receive and understand all proceedings whether communicated verbally or in writing. If it is not possible to provide this information five (5) court days prior to a hearing, the information must be communicated to the interpreter coordinator at the earliest possible opportunity.

The information required includes, but may not be limited to:

1) the indigenous language understood by the litigant;
2) the country, state, municipality and town in which the language is spoken;
3) contact information for the litigant or a family member who may be able to provide the necessary language variant information;
4) any other information the interpreter coordinator reasonably requests to secure the services of an appropriate interpreter.

The failure to comply with General Order No. 2025-02, may result in the imposition of monetary sanctions, at the discretion of any judicial officer of this court, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 177.5.