

1 **13-212. Oath to interpreter.**

2 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will truly and impartially interpret or translate
3 from English to _____ (*name of language*) and from _____ (*name of*
4 *language*) to English all questions and answers and matters pertaining to this cause in an
5 understandable manner using your best skills and judgment in accordance with the standards and
6 ethics of the interpreter profession, under penalty of law?

7 USE NOTES

8 This is the form of oath that should be given to interpreters.

9 [As amended, effective January 1, 1987; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. 14-8300-022,
10 effective for all cases pending or filed on or after December 31, 2014.]

11 **Committee commentary.** — Rule 11-604 NMRA of the Rules of Evidence provides:

12 [~~An interpreter is subject to the provisions of these rules relating to qualification as an expert and~~
13 ~~the administration of an oath or affirmation that he will make a true translation.~~] “An interpreter
14 must be qualified and must give an oath or affirmation to make a true translation.”

15 NMSA 1978, Section 34-1-7 (1865), states that the courts may “appoint interpreters and translators
16 to interpret the testimony of witnesses.” Under NMSA 1978, Section 38-10-8 (1985), “Every
17 interpreter appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Court Interpreters Act, before entering upon
18 [~~his~~] [the interpreter’s] duties, shall take an oath [~~that he will~~] . . . [to] make a true and impartial
19 interpretation or translation in an understandable manner using [~~his~~] [the interpreter’s] best skills
20 and judgment in accordance with the standards and ethics of the interpreter profession.”

21 For persons who require a signed language interpreter, there is a separate oath. *See* UJI 13-212A
22 NMRA.

- 1 [As amended by Supreme Court Order No. 14-8300-022], ~~effective for all cases pending or filed~~
- 2 ~~on or after December 31, 2014~~; as amended by Supreme Court Order No. S-1-RCR-2025-00126.]