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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: November 3, 2026

TO: All Judges, Public Defender Office Attorneys, and Indigent Defense Attorneys

FROM: Chris Roberts, OIDS Director CER Digitally signed by CER Date: 2026.11.03 13:08:35 -06'00'

RE: Interpreter Payment Policy for Out-of-Court Services

Effective immediately, all payments for out-of-court interpreter services are to be paid by the Comptroller's Office. Foreign Language Interpreters must be registered with the Administrative Office of Courts pursuant to its Foreign Language Interpreter Program. Details for registration may be found at http://www.alacourt.gov/Interpreter-Overview.aspx . The appointment of interpreters must be in compliance with Alabama Code Sections 15-1-3 (foreign language) and/or 12-21-131 (persons with defects in speech or hearing). The hourly rates for out-of-court interpreter services will be governed by the existing rates set forth by the Administrative Office of Courts, E-Forms - Alabama Administrative Office of Courts .

For out-of-court services, the expense for interpreter services must be pre-approved by the Court as interpreters are considered persons rendering indigent defense services per Alabama Code Section 15-12-21(e)(3). Additionally, the order must specify that the service is to be paid out of the fund "Court Costs Not Otherwise Provided For." Please submit the order pre-approving the interpreter and a copy of the invoice to interpreters@comptroller.alabama.gov .

Questions may be directed to the Comptroller's Office by emailing interpreters@comptroller.alabama.gov or by calling Madison Nummy at (334) 242-0255.