



# MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **New Rules for Sign Language Interpreters to Affect all Courts, Hospitals, Law and Medical Offices in Michigan**

LANSING, MI, July 19, 2016 —New rules for the use of sign language interpreters are now in effect that will help ensure Michigan residents who are deaf and deafblind are able to access important services.

These rules will affect the operation of every courtroom, hospital, doctor's office, legal proceeding, and mental health care provider in Michigan.

Supreme Court Justice Bridget M. McCormack and representatives from the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) will hold a news conference on Wednesday, July 20 to outline these new requirements and how they will help ensure effective communication of complex information in often stressful situations.

**What:** News conference to outline new requirements for Michigan certified sign language interpreters in specific legal and medical settings.

**Where:** 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Rotunda, Michigan Hall of Justice, 925 Ottawa St., Lansing MI

**When:** 9:15 AM on Wednesday, July 20, 2016

**Who:**

- Justice Bridget M. McCormack, Michigan Supreme Court
- Annie Urasky, Director, MDCR Division on Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing (DODDBHH)
- Agustin Arbulu, Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights
- Jill Gaus, Chair of the DODDBHH Advisory Council

**Why:** Decisions made in courtrooms and medical offices are critically important, and individuals who are deaf must be able to effectively communicate. These new standards will make sure interpreters are properly qualified.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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