



OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT  
Court Language Access Services

**COURT OBSERVATION HELPFUL HINTS**

**Suggested types of hearings to observe (based on Multnomah County):**

Community Court	Arraignments (Justice Center)
Diversion (Justice Center Courtroom #2)	Traffic
Small Claims	STOP Court
Drug Call	Restraining Orders
Domestic Dissolutions	Status Checks
Show Cause	Mental Health
Trial Readiness Hearings	Pleas
Probation Violations	

A note of caution about trials: while they can be fascinating to watch, for the most part trials are done simultaneously with a headset so unless you catch witness testimony, you won't see the interpreters "in action" (just the backs of their heads!). Plus, it's probably more helpful to you as an interpreter if you watch the hearings that you will interpret and trials account for a very minute volume of interpreting. Not that you shouldn't see at least one, but keep in mind that you want to be practicing / getting the vocabulary for the hearings you will cover.

**Contact Information:**

The best time to observe court is to come in around 9am or 1:30pm and ask the CLAS scheduler where to go. While hearings are **scheduled**, there are many cancellations and last-minute requests so while you can call in (the day you want to come or the day before), there is the chance that the information we give you will change by the time you arrive at court.

*Multnomah County: 1021 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Contact phone number 503.731.4169*

*Washington County: 150 N 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., downtown Hillsboro, Room 308C. 503.846.8346*

*Clackamas County: 807 Main St., downtown Oregon City. 503.723.2941*

Courts around the state are open to the public, Monday through Friday. For some juvenile cases, you may be asked to leave due to heightened confidentiality measures.

What to bring: notebook and pens to practice note-taking and copying down vocabulary to add to a legal glossary you create.