ASHI FACHLER | HEBREW INTERPRETER

Using an Interpreter?

A short checklist to help you prepare to testify

For depositions, court hearings, and other proceedings, a few simple rules will help you give clear and accurate testimony.

Even after years in the U.S., it is okay and wise to request an interpreter.

Everyday English may not be enough to understand legalese, formal language, or technical terms. Interpretation into Hebrew will help you understand the questions and give an accurate answer.

BEFORE TESTIFYING

- ☐ **Request an interpreter in advance through your attorney,** even if you speak English in everyday life.
- ☐ **Discuss the testimony process with your attorney** and any terms you do not understand. The interpreter cannot give legal advice.

DURING TESTIMONY

- ☐ **Listen to the entire question in Hebrew.** Wait for the interpreter to finish before answering, even if you understood some of the English.
- ☐ **Answer in Hebrew throughout your testimony.** Address the person asking the question or the court, rather than the interpreter.
- ☐ **Speak slowly, in short, complete sentences.** Pause after one or two ideas to allow a full interpretation.
- ☐ **Even if you have told your story many times,** the interpreter hears it for the first time. Break your answer into short segments; do not stop mid-sentence.
- ☐ **Do not speak while the interpreter is interpreting or while someone else is speaking.** He cannot listen to you and interpret at the same time.
- ☐ **Speak directly.** Avoid jokes, slang, and idioms that may not translate well into English. If a phrase matters to your answer, say it and explain what you mean.
- ☐ **If a question or term is unclear, say so.** Ask for repetition or rephrasing; do not guess. For legal advice, ask your attorney under the rules of the proceeding.
- ☐ **If you did not hear clearly or noticed an interpretation error,** say so at once so it can be clarified and corrected on the record.

REMEMBER: Take your time and answer honestly and accurately

The interpreter relays your words as spoken.
He does not add, omit, or advise you how to answer.

For document translation or court interpreting, click hebrewinterpreting.com

To download the Hebrew version of this document and for other translation services, please kindly visit hebrewinterpreting.com

© 2026 Ashi Fachler. All rights reserved.

כל הזכויות שמורות לאשי פכלר © 2026