

BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**General Order
No.315**

**Effective Date
11-01-1994**

**Revised Date
02-01-2001**

Subject: Interpreters

Reviewed 9/1/16

POLICY

It is the policy of this department to be prepared for situations where the questioning of persons who are unable to communicate with officers without an interpreter is essential. Therefore, the following procedures have been developed.

It should be noted that this procedure is limited to essential communication due to the difficulty involved in summoning an interpreter.

PROCEDURES

I. Situations Requiring an Interpreter

- A. An interpreter will be summoned for hearing impaired or non-English speaking individuals only under the following circumstances:
 - 1. The individual is a suspect and must be questioned to elicit a confession or incriminating/corroborating evidence.
 - 2. The individual has been arrested and must be advised of Miranda warnings.
 - 3. The individual is an essential witness in a violent crime and may provide information that will lead to the arrest of the perpetrator or the recovery of evidence.
 - 4. The individual is injured and must be questioned relative to his symptoms.
 - 5. The individual is a witness in a major traffic accident and will be unavailable for re-contact.
- B. It should be noted there will be a delay in response when utilizing a call out procedure; therefore, officers will make every effort to conduct the interview/interrogation at a District or office.
- C. Civilians will require compensation and should be given the file number of the investigation and directed to submit the bill to the Planning and Research division.

II. Interview Procedure

- A. Hearing impaired individuals who are able to read and write and are not injured to the point of being unable to do so, may communicate via pen and paper. Advice of rights and statements will be in written form.
- B. If an interpreter must be summoned, the investigating officer must determine the location of the interview (whether it is at the scene or at a District/office). Only under conditions of extreme urgency will a civilian be called to a crime scene.
- C. Communications will then be notified of the specific requirements for the interpreter (sign language, Spanish speaking, etc.) and the location at which he will be needed.

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- D. Communications will then contact an interpreter using the list of employee skills file in the CAD system and the following protocol:
1. On duty police employee.
 2. On duty EMS or Fire dept. employee.
 3. Off duty police employee.
 4. Civilian organizations.
 - a. Deaf Action Center (hearing impaired).
 - b. LSU foreign language dept or Baton Rouge Translators.