

USE OF AN INTERPRETER

An interpreter will assist in this trial. (He) (she) is here only to help us communicate. (He) (she) is completely neutral. (He) (she) is not working for either party. (He) (she) is sworn to interpret truthfully and accurately.

The interpreter's role is to interpret what others say so that everyone understands everything that is said. Do not let your judgment be affected by a person's need for an interpreter.

If you understand the language of the witness, you must disregard completely what the witness says in that language. The evidence is the testimony as it is interpreted by the interpreter(s). Even if you think the interpreter has made a mistake, you must rely on the interpreter's English translation.

NOTES:

1. **The interpretation is the evidence.** It is the translation of the testimony that is to be considered as evidence. Jurors should be instructed that they are to follow the translation in English even if they have reason to believe it is not accurate. *Commonwealth v. Chicas*, 481 Mass. 316, 324 (2019), citing *Commonwealth v. Portillo*, 462 Mass. 324, 328 (2012).