

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE CAMPAIGN



Working as a Volunteer Interpreter

Many attorneys are interested in taking on a pro bono case, but require the assistance of a telephonic or in person interpreter. You can make all the difference in the world! We would love to match you with a volunteer attorney.

When an attorney is ready for a case and needs to be matched with a volunteer interpreter, we will reach out to you.

What to expect if you are a volunteer interpreter

- When there is a need, we will email and ask if you are available to assist with telephonic or in person interpretation for a case.
- If the timing is good and you are comfortable with the case after looking at the anonymized case blurb, then we will send an email introducing you to the pro bono attorney.
- The attorney will email or call you to find a time that works for you both for the initial call with the client.
- Every detention center has different steps for arranging client phone calls. The attorney will have this information and will discuss it with you. Make certain you have a clear plan with the attorney regarding the logistics of the call, including:
 - Who will call whom?
 - Do you know how to make a three-way call?
 - What is your plan if the client will be on via videoconference?
 - Who will initiate the call with the detention center?
 - Have you talked about time zones? (Sometimes the attorney, interpreter, and client are all in different time zones.)
- When having a conversation with the client, the attorney should address the client directly, rather than addressing you, the interpreter. The attorney should speak normally, with pauses every few sentences to allow you to interpret what they just said. You can learn more about best practices as an interpreter on the Immigration Justice Campaign website, in our Get Trained section for Interpretation and Translator.