

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF BEAVER
COUNTY 36TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN

Section I - Legal Basis and Purpose

This Language Access Plan (LAP) is the means by which the Court of Common Pleas of Beaver County will ensure meaningful access to Court services for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP) or deaf or hard of hearing in compliance with the following:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Omnibus Crime Central and Safe Streets Act
- Pennsylvania Interpreter Act
- Administrative regulations governing Court interpreters for persons with limited English proficiency and for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

A limited English proficient person is a person who does not speak English as his or her primary language, and who has a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English, and therefore may be unable to understand and meaningfully participate in the court process. Although deaf and hard of hearing individuals are covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) rather than Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, they have been included in this plan insofar as they relate to the Pennsylvania Interpreter Act and the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts' (AOPC) Interpreter Certification Program Regulations.

The purpose of this plan is to provide a framework for the provision of timely and effective language assistance to LEP persons and deaf and hard of hearing persons who interact with the judicial system as participants or as interested parties.

The Beaver County Court of Common Pleas has appointed Aileen Bowers, Deputy District Court Administrator, as the Language Access Coordinator, for the 36th Judicial District. Ms. Bowers will be the contact person for the public, court staff and the AOPC concerning this plan and its implementation. The Language Access Coordinator may be contacted through the following ways.

Contact information:

District Court Administrator Beaver County Courthouse,

810 Third Street, Beaver, PA 15009, Phone: 724-770-4700 Fax: 724-728-8708:

Email: languageaccess@beavercountypa.gov