

February 2011 Newsletter

News From The Interpreter's Café ©



Thank you for joining the meeting on February 21. Some interpreters were very busy and could not make it. I hope we can all meet in March! Laurie had a bad fall and had surgery on her arm, so she is slowly but surely getting back to work, although she still can't drive. Get well soon Laurie! We were honored by the presence of Indian interpreter Nisha at the Café. Even though most of the interpreters are for Spanish, we were still able to have a great conversation, discuss some issues about invoicing, etc. Alina mentioned that she is going to the 3-week workshop in Arizona. Good for you Alina! We all know how demanding and expensive that seminar is. Maybe next year... Linda and Richard had some great idioms and vocabulary which are included in the box to the right. I asked Maria some questions about the new optional invoicing practice right before the meeting. For those who could not make it, I am including the Q & A below. See you in a few weeks at the March Interpreter's Café. We will discuss, among other items, upcoming seminars and possible travel and housing arrangements.

A few invoicing questions and answers.

Q1) If we accept the new system in which the interpreter invoices the courts, what happens if the interpreter makes a mistake in the hours or amount?

A1) *All invoices submitted by you will be compared for accuracy against that week's RFP forms sent by the courts. I will continue to calculate totals, as it is part of the approval process. Should there be a discrepancy; the information in the RFP shall be the basis for the decision.*

Q2) How will the court proceed if the interpreter includes in the invoice an rfp that the aoc hasn't received yet?

A2) *I will have to ask the court to send the specific RFP ASAP. As I stated in my previous email about this, all courts are sending RFP via fax with the exception of NCC CCP and FC and they know to send them by the following Monday.*

Q3) If the interpreter practices the new invoicing method, will this now be the only request for payment, and the rfp form becomes a backup/ control device for the AOC?



Eat fruit

March meeting glossary

Shed/Storage unit: galpón
Self-storage facility: almacén/depósito de alquiler
Warehouse: Bodega/deposito
Restocker: repositor
Motor-vehicle: vehículos motorizados/Motovehículos
Commissary: tienda carcelaria
Commisary account: cuenta en...
To swing a knife: amagar con el brazo/tratar de acuchillar
Probation before judgement: probatoria previa al fallo
Date-rape: violación cometida durante una cita
Rape: violación/ultraje/estupro
Rotator cuff: [rotador del] hombro
Medium pain: dolor intermedio
Cheek: pómulos
Fleshy cheek: cachete
Backing out of: saliendo en reversa de
I stopped and got out: me detuve y salí
Like father like son: de tal palo, tal astilla
Money order: money order (money order is not "giro postal")
Stalking: persiguiendo/acosando

...continued

A3) *The RPF is still the crucial form. This invoicing system does not change the need for the RPF*

Q4) If the interpreter starts the new invoicing system, can he/she opt out later if it doesn't work for him/her?

A4) Yes

Note: rfp/RFP stands for "request for payment form". That is the document we fill out after each assignment and have an officer sign-then make a copy for our records.

AOC is Maria at the Administrative Office of the Courts.