

1 AN ACT concerning courts.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Code of Civil Procedure is amended by adding
5 Section 8-1403 as follows:

6 (735 ILCS 5/8-1403 new)

7 Sec. 8-1403. Interpreters for civil cases.

8 (a) Whenever any person is a party or witness in a civil
9 action in this State, the court shall, upon its own motion or
10 that of a party, determine whether the person is capable of
11 understanding the English language and is capable of expressing
12 himself or herself in the English language so as to be
13 understood directly by counsel, court, or jury. If the court
14 finds the person incapable of so understanding or so expressing
15 himself or herself, the court shall appoint an interpreter for
16 the person whom he or she can understand and who can understand
17 him or her. All appointments for court interpreters in civil
18 matters shall be pursuant to the Illinois Supreme Court
19 Language Access Policy and the judicial circuit's Language
20 Access Plan that is appropriate for the demands and resources
21 specific to the Illinois courts within that particular circuit.

22 (b) The court shall enter an order of its appointment of
23 the interpreter who shall be sworn to truly interpret or

1 translate all questions propounded or answers given as directed
2 by the court.

3 (c) As used in this Section, "interpreter" includes a sign
4 language interpreter.