

Filipino Sign Language in Justice System Advocacy Letter

To Whom it May Concern:

This is a letter from Philippine Federation of the Deaf and contains all the information you need to ensure your access to Filipino Sign Language in the Justice System.

In the Filipino Sign Language Act known as The Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 11106 which states that:

Section 6. Filipino Sign Language in the Justice System.

The FSL shall be the official language and legal interpreting for the deaf in all public hearings, proceedings, and transactions of the courts, quasi-judicial agencies, and other tribunals. To ensure effective access to justice for the deaf on an equal basis with others and to facilitate their effective role as direct and indirect participants in the legal system, courts, quasi-judicial agencies, and other tribunals are hereby mandated to ensure the availability of a qualified sign language interpreter in all proceedings involving deaf, without prejudice to the right of the deaf to choose other forms or modes of communication, if they so prefer.

For purposes of this Act, “hearings, proceedings, and transactions” shall include those in police stations and before the Lupong Tagapamayapa of the Katarungang Pambarangay, as well as preliminary investigations and other initial stages in the courts, quasi-judicial bodies, and other tribunals.

The Supreme Court and other concerned agencies shall promote appropriate training for those working in the administration of justice, including hearing interpreters, deaf relay interpreters, and other court personnel, police and prison staff. Support staff shall also be trained in translation from FSL to written English or Filipino.

The Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Judiciary, with the involvement of the deaf community and other stakeholders, are tasked to create a national system of standards, accreditation, and procedures for legal interpreting in FSL.



Philippine Federation of the Deaf
www.pfdeaf.org