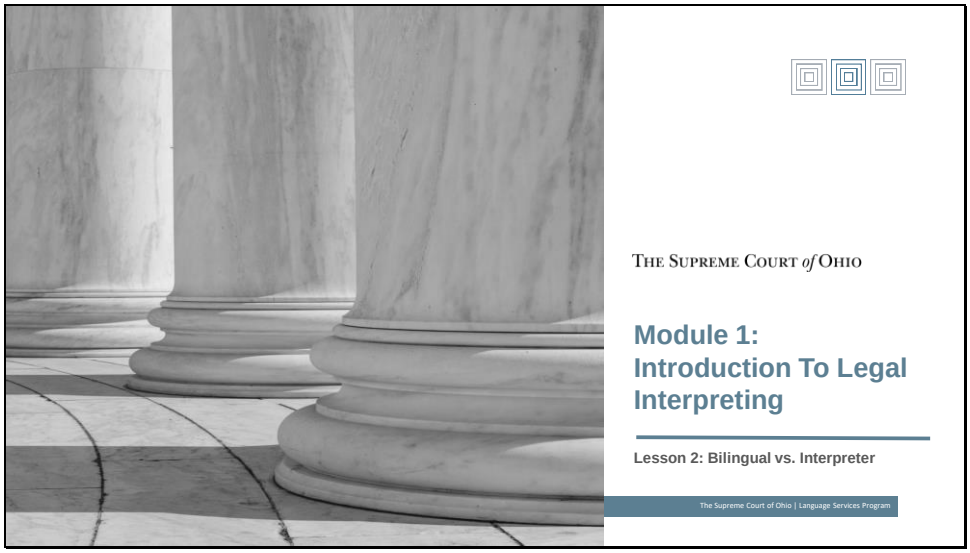
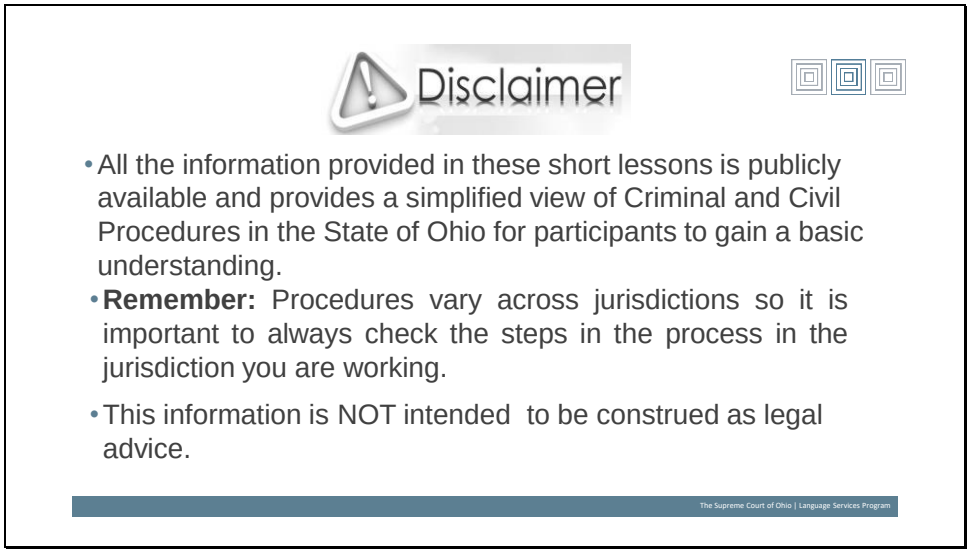
Slide 1


THE SUPREME COURT of OHIO
Module 1:
Introduction To Legal Interpreting
Lesson 2: Bilingual vs. Interpreter
The Supreme Court of Ohio | Language Services Program

Slide 2


Disclaimer
• All the information provided in these short lessons is publicly available and provides a simplified view of Criminal and Civil Procedures in the State of Ohio for participants to gain a basic understanding.
• **Remember:** Procedures vary across jurisdictions so it is important to always check the steps in the process in the jurisdiction you are working.
• This information is NOT intended to be construed as legal advice.
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Slide 3

What does ¨Being Bilingual¨ Mean?

- “Having, speaking (fluently) two languages”
- The Concise Oxford Dictionary

Slide 4

The Benefits of Being Bilingual

1. Being bilingual allows you to converse fairly easily with most native speakers of different languages during routine conversations using standard vocabulary.
2. According to studies being bilingual has many cognitive benefits: better at paying attention and multitasking.
3. Staving off aging and the onset of dementia or Alzheimer's

Slide 5

Bilingual vs. Interpreter

- Being bilingual is definitely the foundation of becoming an interpreter, however interpreting requires more refined linguistic skills.

Slide 6

Key Differences Between Being Bilingual and Being an Interpreter

(Especially a Court Interpreter)

1. Professional interpreters must possess language skills far beyond what the average bilingual would need.
2. Interpreters are trained to provide a complete and accurate interpretation meaning for meaning, with all the flavor and emotion of the original statement.

Slide 7

Key Differences Between Being Bilingual and Being an Interpreter

4. An interpreter has exceptional public speaking. Confidence while interpreting. Interpret in front of groups of people.
5. Interpreters provide a voice for individuals who otherwise can not communicate with each other, it's their job to ensure that their voices are heard accurately.
6. Professional interpreters are also trained to handle highly specialized interpreting situations requiring complex vocabulary with nuanced meanings.

Slide 8

Court Interpreters Must Possess

1. Language level of sophistication equivalent to a two year college degree in both languages
2. Language Expertise, Talent and Interpreting Technique

Slide 9

Who Are You, Really?

- Interpreters must be well-versed in specialized vocabulary
- There are legal interpreters, who work solely with children or in mental health facilities, the list goes on and on.
- Cultural awareness: understanding local expressions and nuances all come into play when interpreting one language into another.