ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF THE COURTS

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, and with the advice and consent of the Administrative Board of the Courts, I hereby promulgate, effective immediately, a new Part 217 of the Rules of the Chief Administrator of the Courts, relating to court interpreter services, to read as follows:

PART 217
ACCESS TO COURT INTERPRETER SERVICES
FOR PERSONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

§217.1 Obligation to appoint interpreter in court proceedings in the trial courts.

(a) In all civil and criminal cases, when a court determines that a party or witness, or an interested parent or guardian of a minor party in a Family Court proceeding, is unable to understand and communicate in English to the extent that he or she cannot meaningfully participate in the court proceedings, the court shall appoint an interpreter. The court may permit an interpreter to interpret by telephone or live audiovisual means.

(b) A person with limited English proficiency, other than a person testifying as a witness, may waive a court-appointed interpreter, with the consent of the court, if the person provides his or her own interpreter.

§217.2 Provision of interpreting services in clerk's offices.

A court clerk shall provide interpreting services to a person with limited English proficiency seeking assistance at the court clerk's office in accordance with the needs of the person seeking assistance and the availability of court interpreting services. Such services may be provided by telephone or live audiovisual means.

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Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts

Dated:

AO/ /07

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF THE COURTS

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, and upon consultation with and approval by the Administrative Board of the Courts, I hereby amend, effective May 1, 2015, section 217.1(a) of the Uniform Civil Rules for the Supreme and County Courts, relating to access to court interpreter services for persons with limited English proficiency, as follows:

§217.1 Obligation to appoint interpreter in court proceedings in the trial courts.

(a) In all civil and criminal cases, when a court determines that a party or witness, or an interested parent or guardian of a minor party in a Family Court proceeding, is unable to understand and communicate in English to the extent that he or she cannot meaningfully participate in the court proceedings, the ~~court shall appoint~~ clerk of the court or another designated administrative officer shall schedule an interpreter from an approved list maintained by the Office of Court Administration. The court may permit an interpreter to interpret by telephone or live audiovisual means. If no pre-approved interpreter is available, the clerk of the court or another designated administrative officer shall schedule an interpreter as justice requires. This rule shall not alter or diminish the court's authority and duty to assure justness in proceedings before it.

Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts

Dated: April 9, 2015

AO/79/15