

Interview Summary

Name of person interviewed

Ashley Angel

Relationship to the case

Witness

Person conducting the interview and preparing written statement

Amanda Batiz, Operations Division Manager, Superior Court

Location of Interview

Millville Municipal Court

Date of Interview

12/19/2022- Monday

Time of Interview

10:00 a.m.

Summary:

My name is Ashley Angel and I am a Clerk 1. I have worked for municipal court for a month and two weeks. I report to Kim. My duties are a lot of data entry and master filing. I am still being trained and I have a lot more things to cover. I need to learn the window and answering phone calls and a lot more with the programs.

My understanding of how cases are scheduled for court are related to data entry. I go off the date on the ticket that the officer writes when they issue a ticket. I am not aware of a protocol of changing any dates. They will change if, for example the case is scheduled on a ticket for Tuesday, a non-court date. It is my understanding that whoever does the notices will change it, but whatever the officer writes I will put in--- unless it is a day that we don't have court, or they hire a public defender. Those court days will also change or if they hire a private attorney. Whoever oversees the scheduling for a particular day can change. There is not one sole person in charge. In my time here I have never observed anyone change a scheduled date from the ticket solely based on the assumption of a need for an interpreter. That would take too much time and we don't have time for that.

I am not familiar with the Supreme Court order dated October 27, 2022. I have not been made aware of that. I believe, I think, we tell the officers to give us a date in advance to give us enough time for court notices. I believe a lot of traffic, criminal and trials have their own category of scheduling.

I do not know the procedure for scheduling interpreting matters, I have not been trained on that. I am bilingual and I have witnessed interactions at the customer service window where a litigant will come to the window and tell the staff that they are scheduled for court and need an interpreter. If they request an interpreter, we will give them the interpreter. Most of the clerks are bilingual. We understand this area and we understand there are a lot of Spanish speaking residents. From what I have observed in my short time here, they say they need an interpreter and then the clerks will say that

we will schedule you for an interpreter when the interpreter is in. I have only ever seen the interpreter in person, I do not know if she does virtual hearings.

I am not aware of any paperwork available in another language that explains the court process to litigants. I am not aware of any other interpreting resources for litigants outside of the bilingual staff and the Spanish interpreter that comes to court.

No one has ever instructed me to or shared with me that cases requiring an interpreter should intentionally be scheduled on the days the interpreter is available for in person services. I haven't sat in on in-person court or virtual court. I am not familiar with that; I don't know how that works yet. I don't know if we can get an interpreter online. I don't know yet if we have virtual interpreters. We would probably need to move any case in a scenario where an interpreter was available.

That would be too much work if we started going through every single case and picking out cases for in person based on last name. I don't believe it is a thing here where cases are scheduled for in-person hearings based on their last name. A person's last name does not play any part in the scheduling a matter. I don't think the person's last name plays any part in the scheduling of cases or the scheduling of tickets. No one has ever told me that Spanish looking last names should be scheduled with an interpreter. I have not heard anyone say that in the office.

I don't think Judge Witcher plays any role in the scheduling of matters. I don't even think he is aware of where the process even starts. I know this because of my experience through the day-to-day workdays. I have seen that the tickets come in and it is our job to grab them and process them in and once they are processed, we then schedule it for the date the police give and then we put it in as a payable ticket or if it is court required then we put it in for scheduling. We place in a bin in the office. The bin is alphabetical, and we put everything that needs to be scheduled in it. Whoever is in charge for scheduling for a day will schedule it. I don't know what happens in court and we, us clerks, are the ones that handle the scheduling of the matters. The Judge doesn't oversee that.

I don't believe there are any issues with scheduling, unless the day is full in the system will tell us it's fill and then we have to reschedule. No one has ever told me there is a problem with how we schedule things.

Date:

12/21/2022

Ashley Angel

Full Name

Ashley Angel

Date:

Amanda A. Batiz

Signature of Person Conducting the Interview

/S/ Amanda Batiz

Date:

Kelly Johnston

Signature of Management Witness

/S/ Kelly Johnston