

ADOPTIONS SECTION

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules

Interpreters; Payment

N.J.A.C. 1:1-14.3

Effective Date: July 12, 2024.

Take notice that the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) has changed its internal process for providing interpreters in administrative hearings and will no longer enforce N.J.A.C. 1:1-14.3(a), (b), or (c) as currently promulgated. Pursuant to the present version of N.J.A.C. 1:1-14.3, parties to an administrative hearing are permitted to obtain an interpreter at their own cost if the administrative law judge determines that interpretation is necessary. The rule also sets forth the procedure for the selection of the interpreter and for the exception to the requirement that the requesting party pay for the interpreter when the interpreter is for the hearing impaired.

This change means that the OAL no longer requires parties requesting an interpreter pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-14.3(a), (b), or (c) to pay for their own interpreter; instead, parties must notify the OAL if they have a limited ability to speak or understand English so the OAL can provide interpreters at the hearings.

The OAL will prepare a rulemaking to replace or amend N.J.A.C. 1:1-14.3 in due course, but because the rulemaking process takes time, the OAL is notifying the public of its current policy not to enforce N.J.A.C. 1:1-14.3(a), (b), or (c). Until a new or amended regulation is adopted, the public is directed to the OAL website, where the current process for requesting an

interpreter is posted. It states: “If you require an interpreter because you have limited ability to speak or understand English, please contact the OAL at (609) 438-6316. Kindly make your request as far in advance of the hearing as possible.” See www.nj.gov/oal/hearings/interpret/.

The OAL will continue to enforce N.J.A.C. 1:1-14.3(d).