**02.08A Credibility of Witnesses – Witness Who Testifies Through Interpreter**

In this case, one of the witnesses presented [his] [her] testimony through an interpreter. The interpreter is required to translate between English and [specify other language] accurately and impartially.

You must evaluate interpreted testimony as you would any other testimony. That is, you must not give interpreted testimony any greater or lesser weight than you would if the witness had spoken English.

[A person who speaks or understands limited English also has the right to the services of an interpreter. You must evaluate this testimony as you would any other testimony. That is, you must not give the testimony any greater or lesser weight simply because the witness testified both in English and through an interpreter.]

At times, you may hear a long question or phrase in one language interpreted as a short question or phrase or even a single work in another language. This is normal and should not cause you to doubt the fidelity of the interpretation. For example, the English word for the month of April is interpreted in Navajo as “the month in with the baby eagles are born.” Therefore, the Navajo interpretation would be much longer than the English word “April.”

Some of you may speak the language that is being interpreted. When a witness testifies through an interpreter, you must accept the English interpretation of that testimony even if you would have translated the testimony differently. This ensures that all jurors consider the same evidence.

# Use Note

The mid-trial version of this instruction (1A.19) should be given before the witness testifies so that jurors do not form impressions about the witness or the witness’ testimony that may be difficult to overcome. However, the court may find it helpful to repeat the instruction at the end of the case.