



Why U.S. Immigration Judges Are Cracking Down on Foreign- Language Sworn Statements



Compliance Comes First

Foreign-language declarations are getting more scrutiny in immigration court.

Attorneys need to make sure they're compliant before filing.



The New Emphasis on Compliance

Immigration judges are spelling out what they expect when a sworn statement is not in English.

That means the translation and certification both need to be correct and complete.



What the Rules Actually Say

Under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.33 and related guidance, foreign-language documents need an English translation.

They also need a certification that the translator is competent and that the translation is true, complete, and accurate.



It's Not Just the Translation

Judges are also looking at whether the client understood what they signed.

EOIR model certificates require confirmation that the document was read in the person's language and understood before signing.



Common Problems Judges Are Seeing

Some sworn statements are filed without an English translation or without a translator's certificate.

Others rely on in-office staff “who speak the language” instead of a qualified translator, or are signed without clear proof that the client understood the contents.



Why Outside, Qualified Translators are Important

Courts expect translations from someone who is competent to translate and can certify accuracy, not just bilingual staff doing it on the side.

Using a trained legal translator lowers the risk of a judge questioning the translation or refusing to rely on the sworn statement.



Practical Checklist for Attorneys

Before filing, make sure you have the original, a full English translation, a translator's certification, and proof that the client understood it.

Check that the translation was done by a qualified translator, not untrained staff; that simple check can save lots of time and trouble down the road.



I Can Help

If your firm files foreign-language declarations, I can help make them court-ready.

Connect with me to build a translation process that meets judges' expectations and protects your clients' cases.



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