

GRAND JURY COMPLAINT FORMS

Question: Does your grand jury have complaint forms in multiple languages and if so, which languages and who does the necessary interpreter? (Responses collected December 2009)

	County	Response
1.	Contra Costa	We do not have them in multiple languages, but it's an interesting thought.
2.	Kings	Kings County has a grand jury complaint only in English. We've never had a request for one in any other language.
3.	Los Angeles	Our civil grand jury uses only a single language complaint form in English for citizen's complaints. We do make it available on our website, but we have never attempted to produce it in any other language. If we did, I would expect any interpreter/translator costs to be borne by the grand jury budget.
4.	Orange	Orange County's forms are in English only.
5.	Santa Barbara	I don't remember the subject of changing the complaint form being discussed. I don't think any juror brought this specific subject up nor did any member of the public contact the jury to suggest the complaint form should be in any language other than English. I do know that several Spanish-speaking jurors advised the jury, in different situations, that in interpreting Spanish you have to be extremely careful since different countries, dialects and nuances vary depending on who does the speaking, writing and interpreter. To my knowledge, the Penal Code is silent on the subject and doesn't mandate it be done. (former grand jury foreperson)
6.	Santa Clara	We provide the complaint forms in Spanish and Vietnamese. The Court (not the County) picked up the tab when we had our form translated a few years ago. Interestingly, we have never had a request for the form in either language, thus we have not had a need for interpreters and/or translators. I am fluent in Spanish and would be able to provide translation if the need arose. However, all of our forms (all court forms included) must be translated by official interpreters/translators. The cost would be borne by the Grand Jury. I would step in (as a translator) if a complaint arrived in Spanish, only to give the Grand Jury the gist of the complaint.
7.	Solano	At this point, we do not have a Spanish version of our complaint form or any other language. I do believe that it is in our near future and our web committee has been discussing the opportunity to have a bi-lingual website.
8.	Yolo	In Yolo County, the complaint form is only in English. Fortunately, each year the group includes several members who at least speak Spanish. Yolo County also has a large Russian population; but as far as I know, they have not had any issues.