

## Generally NO

- Interpreting is a professional skill that requires training and has strict ethical standards. It is not enough that a person may be bilingual. An interpreter must also maintain a level of confidentiality and impartiality that a friend or family member cannot provide. There can also be specialized or unusual terms or concepts that are not common in regular conversation, especially in medical or legal fields. Interpreters should be qualified to work in a dialect the person will understand and in the specific settings that they are asked to work in, an agencies, organizations and professionals should take steps to make sure that interpreters they use are qualified. In some settings, however, such as courtrooms, interpreters may also need an additional certification that they are qualified to interpret in that setting. Children should NEVER be used as interpreters for their parents or other adult family members. The only time that a family member may be utilized for language assistance is when the communication required is very brief, simple or straightforward, and not technical, and the person who is LEP states a preference for a family member to interpret.