

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

**50.015 General rule of competency.** Every person is competent to be a witness except as otherwise provided in this Title.  
(Added to NRS by 1971, 788)

**50.025 Lack of personal knowledge.**

1. A witness may not testify to a matter unless:

(a) Evidence is introduced sufficient to support a finding that he has personal knowledge of the matter; or  
(b) He states his opinion or inference as an expert.

2. Evidence to prove personal knowledge may, but need not, consist of the testimony of the witness himself.

(Added to NRS by 1971, 788)

**50.035 Oath or affirmation.**

1. Before testifying, every witness shall be required to declare that he will testify truthfully, by oath or affirmation administered in a form calculated to awaken his conscience and impress his mind with his duty to do so.

2. An affirmation is sufficient if the witness is addressed in the following terms: "You do solemnly affirm that the evidence you shall give in this issue (or matter), pending between ..... and ....., shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." Assent to this affirmation shall be made by the answer, "I do."

(Added to NRS by 1971, 788)

**50.045 Interpreters.** Interpreters are subject to the provisions of this chapter relating to qualification as an expert.

(Added to NRS by 1971, 788; A 1979, 656)

**50.050 Interpreters for handicapped persons: Definitions; appointment required in judicial proceedings; compensation.**

1. As used in NRS 50.050 to 50.053, inclusive, unless the context requires otherwise:

(a) "Handicapped person" means a person who, because he is deaf, mute or has a physical speaking impairment, cannot readily understand or communicate in the English language or cannot understand the proceedings.

(b) "Interpreter" means a person who is readily able to communicate with the handicapped person, translate the proceedings for him and accurately repeat and translate the statements of the handicapped person to the court or magistrate or other person presiding over the proceedings.

2. In all judicial proceedings in which a handicapped person appears as a witness, the court, magistrate or other person presiding

over the proceedings shall appoint an interpreter to interpret the proceedings to the handicapped person and to interpret the testimony of the handicapped person to the court, magistrate or other person presiding.

3. The court, magistrate or other person presiding over the proceedings shall fix a reasonable compensation for the services and expenses of the interpreter appointed pursuant to this section. If the judicial proceeding is civil in nature the compensation of the interpreter may be taxed as costs and must not be charged as a public expense.

4. Claims against a county, municipality, the state or any agency thereof for the compensation of an interpreter in a criminal proceeding or other proceeding for which an interpreter must be provided at public expense must be paid in the same manner as other claims against the respective entities are paid. Payment may be made only upon the certificate of the judge, magistrate or other person presiding over the proceedings that the qualified interpreter has performed the services required and incurred the expenses claimed.

(Added to NRS by 1975, 308; A 1979, 656)

**50.051 Interpreters for handicapped persons: Appointment required in criminal proceedings.** An interpreter must be appointed at public expense for a handicapped person who is a party to or a witness in a criminal proceeding.

(Added to NRS by 1979, 656)

**50.052 Interpreters for handicapped persons: Replacement; persons ineligible for appointment; selection, approval by handicapped person.**

1. If an interpreter appointed for a handicapped person is not effectively or accurately communicating with or on behalf of the handicapped person, and that fact becomes known to the person who appointed him, another interpreter must be appointed.

2. Unless otherwise agreed upon by the parties, a person may not be appointed as an interpreter of a handicapped person in a proceeding if he is:

(a) The spouse of the handicapped person or related to him; or

(b) Otherwise interested in the outcome of the proceeding or biased for or against one of the parties.

3. Whenever possible, a handicapped person must be given an interpreter of his own choice or one of whom he approves.

(Added to NRS by 1979, 656)

**50.053 Interpreters for handicapped persons: Oath; rights, privileges.**

1. Before undertaking his duties, the interpreter shall swear or affirm that he will make a true interpretation in an understandable manner to the person for whom he has been appointed, and that he will repeat the statements of the handicapped person in the English language to the best of his ability.

2. While in the proper performance of his duties, an interpreter