

Fundamental rights in criminal proceedings: Information, interpretation and translation

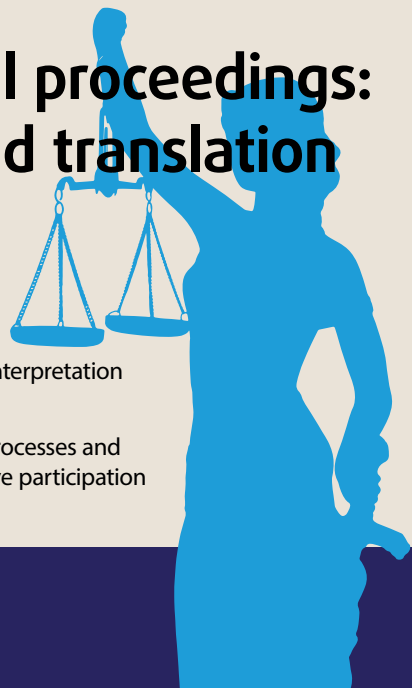


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Various EU criminal justice laws apply to Member States to guarantee common EU-wide minimum standards for rights protection.

These include laws on the right to information, interpretation and translation.

These help increase understanding of criminal processes and the consequences. They also help ensure effective participation in criminal proceedings and fairness of trials.



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Ways to improve



Ensuring that suspects and the accused are informed about the availability of interpretation for communicating with legal counsel.

Specific safeguards should ensure such communication is confidential.



Providing clear guidance on whether and when interpretation / translation is needed and which documents must be translated.



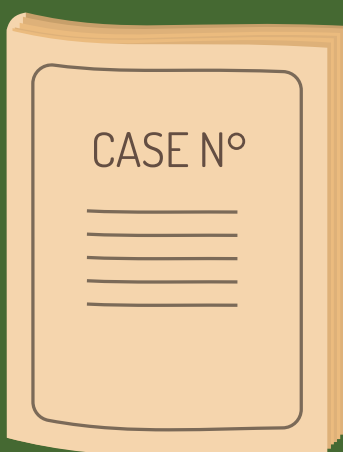
Creating a register of qualified interpreters / translators, with clear rules on who can be added to the register.



Providing easy-to-understand rights information to suspects and the accused.



Facilitating access to case material – for example, requiring criminal justice authorities to proactively share such material with defendants or their lawyers during proceedings.



Consider the needs of people with disabilities or children in line with European and international human rights standards.

This includes accessible information about rights.



Based on FRA report on laws and practices across the EU 28 Member States:
Rights of suspected and accused persons across the EU: translation, interpretation and information
For more information, visit:
<http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/access-justice>