

PRESS RELEASE

Safe Communities working with AOPC to provide PA Dutch Court Interpreters

For immediate release: August 29th, 2023

The Lancaster Law Foundation has given Safe Communities a \$10,000 grant to continue our Court Interpreters Project. Safe Communities is working with The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) to begin a pilot program to gather interested PA Dutch Speakers to work towards certification. Because the testing required for this certification is geared towards an individual with an associate degree, and many women in Plain Communities end their formal schooling after the 8th grade, past attempts to get Plain women certified have not been successful. The AOPC has worked with Safe Communities to come up with reasonable accommodations to help PA Dutch speakers get through the program. These have included excusing Plain folks from the Sunday portion of the mandatory orientation, and hosting the proctored written exam in Lancaster County, at a location easily accessible and comfortable to Plain folks. The YWCA of Lancaster is also assisting with this project.

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