

*Interpreter: Claims to Be Certified; No Reversible Error

<<http://representingforeignnationals.blogspot.com/2008/11/interpreter-interpreter-for-victim.html>>

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A Tennessee Court has upheld the death penalty, after various claims of errors. One of these included the fact that the interpreter for a witness claimed to be certified but in fact was not. Because the defense had made no objection, and there was no other evidence that the fairness of the trial was undermined, the Court did not find this error to be sufficient for reversal. /State v. Banks/--- S.W.3d ----, 2008 WL 4823068Tenn.,2008.November 07, 2008.

"The use an interpreter who is neither certified nor registered is not reversible error in and of itself. It may rise to the level of reversible error only in circumstances where a certified or registered interpreter was readily available and where the use of the non-credentialed interpreter undermined the fairness of the proceeding in some way. This record does not indicate that a certified or registered Arabic language interpreter was readily available or that Mr. Ghanem's translation somehow undermined the fairness of the proceeding."

Posted by Law Offices of Linda Friedman Ramirez at 4:38 AM