



U. S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

DJ#: 366-16-83

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

DEC 13 2002

Addressee

RE: Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency

Dear Addressee:

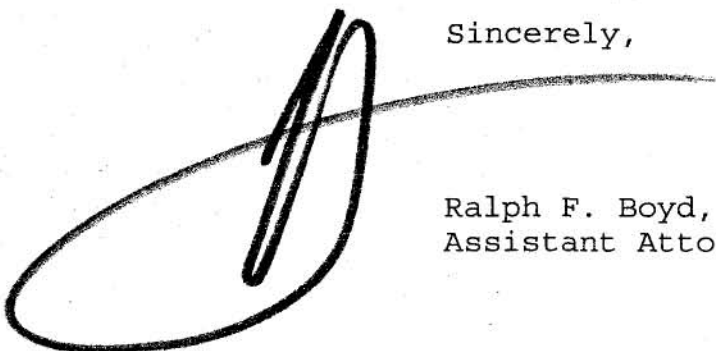
On June 18, 2002, the Department of Justice (DOJ) issued final guidance to recipients of DOJ federal financial assistance regarding the provision of meaningful access to limited English proficient (LEP) individuals. The guidance, which explains existing recipient obligations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Title VI regulations, is attached for your information and further distribution to your membership. The guidance, along with a host of technical assistance and information on LEP, can also be found at <http://www.lep.gov>. I am writing you to ask your assistance and to offer our own.

First, the Civil Rights Division would appreciate your assistance in getting the word out to your members -- whether they be law enforcement agencies, courts, corrections agencies, or other recipients of DOJ assistance -- about the need to provide meaningful access to LEP individuals. To that end, I have enclosed a short article that could be included in any newsletters or other information that you send to your members.

Second, the Coordination and Review Section (COR) of the Civil Rights Division is able to offer speakers who can discuss the guidance at conferences or other member events. COR would also be interested in working with your organization in identifying model language access plans and practices. I encourage you to tap into these resources.

Thank you very much for your assistance in ensuring meaningful access for LEP individuals. If you have any questions, or would like to work with the Division in the ways mentioned above, please do not hesitate to contact Merrily A. Friedlander, Section Chief, Coordination and Review Section, at (202) 307-2222, or Merrily.A.Friedlander@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ralph F. Boyd, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

Attachments