

Clerk of courts has translators

HISPANIC FROM 1

translating those audio and written materials for Spanish speakers," Levey said.

Jury pamphlets probably won't be included because jurors are required to speak English, she said.

Osceola Clerk of Courts Larry Whaley just finished printing a brochure of his own, explaining what the clerk's office does and giving phone numbers and hours of operation.

The plan is to translate the

brochure into Spanish, he said, although his office is still searching for the best and most economical method of printing it. The English version was printed in house, but the process, while inexpensive, was cumbersome, he said.

Whaley has further tried to make the court system more accessible to Hispanics by making sure some employees in each department speak Spanish, including traffic, marriage, passport, civil, criminal and recording. Bilingual employees are

paid slightly more as an incentive.

A few employees also speak languages that are less in demand, such as Hungarian, Polish and Tagalog, spoken in the Philippines. The capability cuts down on mistakes and misinterpretations, Whaley said.

"It makes for a lot simpler operation for everyone and a more correct operation," he said.

Susan Jacobson can be reached at sjacobson@orlandosentinel.com or 407-931-5946.