

**Figure 6.5**  
**Suggested Text for Clarifying the Interpreter's Role to the Witness**

I want you to understand the role of the interpreter. The interpreter is here only to interpret the questions that you are asked and to interpret your answers. The interpreter will say only what we or you say and will not add, omit, or summarize anything.

The interpreter will say in English everything you say in your language, so do not say anything you do not want everyone to hear.

If you do not understand a question that was asked, request clarification from the person who asked it. Do not ask the interpreter.

Remember that you are giving testimony to this court, not to the interpreter. Therefore, please speak directly to the attorney or me, not to the interpreter. Do not ask the interpreter for advice.

Please speak in a loud, clear voice so that everyone and not just the interpreter can hear.

If you do not understand the interpreter, please tell me. If you need the interpreter to repeat something you missed, you may do so, but please make your request to the person speaking, not to the interpreter.

Finally, please wait until the entire question has been interpreted in your language before you answer.

Do you have any questions about the role of the interpreter? Do you understand the interpreter?\*

\*Note that the interpreter is simultaneously interpreting this advisement while the judge is speaking, and therefore the witness has an opportunity to recognize any problems with communication.