

PLEASE NOTIFY ME

If you would like to be notified of the next written exam, complete and submit a Written Exam Notification form to the Administrative Office of the Courts. By submitting this form, you will receive a registration packet for the next written exam.



STUDY TIPS

- Increase your vocabulary of words in the target language.
- Learn idioms and slang in both English and your target language.
- Practice pronunciation aloud.
- Print up a variety of court forms. Use these to practice sight translation and to improve your legal knowledge.
- Register for local or online interpreter training programs.
- Practice interpreting with self-study tools, listening to the radio or watching the news.
- Tape-record your interpretations. Listen to them to help identify your strengths and weaknesses.
- Develop strong memory and note-taking skills for consecutive interpreting.
- Check with your local library to see if they have a bilingual legal dictionary in your target language. Familiarize yourself with legal concepts.

- If there is an interpreter coordinator in your court or county, ask them when an interpreter is in court so you can observe.
- Attend a court hearing and interpret the proceedings silently to yourself.
- Read RCW Chapter 2.43 and Washington Court Evidence Rule 604.
- Familiarize yourself with General Rule 11.2, Code of Conduct for Court Interpreters.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information regarding the certified court interpreter program, including access to the Written Exam Notification Form, please visit the Administrative Office of the Courts' website at www.courts.wa.gov or contact Tina Williamson at tina.williamson@courts.wa.gov.

WASHINGTON STATE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS



WASHINGTON
COURTS

CERTIFIED COURT INTERPRETER PROGRAM

October 2008



The Washington State Court Interpreter Program operates under the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

The AOC was mandated by the Legislature on July 1, 1990, to administer a comprehensive testing and certification program for spoken-language interpreters (RCW 2.43.070).

Washington State offers certification in the following languages:

Arabic	Laotian	Somali
Cantonese	Mandarin	Spanish
Korean	Russian	Vietnamese

Anyone who wants to interpret in these languages in a legal proceeding must pass the state certification exam, which consists of a written component and an oral component. Those who pass the written component are eligible to take the oral component.

EXAMS

Written Exam: The written exam was developed by the Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification. It is a general proficiency exam that contains 135 multiple-choice questions (related to legal terminology, English aptitude and ethics), plus, translation of 10 passages from English into the target language. The translation section of the written exam is rated by linguistic professionals. A test candidate must pass both the multiple-choice section and the translation section with a score of

80% or better to be eligible to take the oral exam.

Oral Exam: The oral exam consists of simultaneous, consecutive, and sight translation interpretation exercises. The entire exam is audio taped and sent to a linguistic professional for rating. The test candidate must pass each section of the exam with a score of at least 70% or better. The cost for the oral exam is \$250 for Washington State residents and \$500 for out-of-state residents.

CERTIFIED ACCREDITATION

Candidates must complete the following before receiving accreditation as a certified court interpreter:

- 1) Pass the written exam administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) with a score of 80% or better.
- 2) Attend a one-day orientation sponsored by the AOC.
- 3) Pass the oral exam administered by the AOC with a score of at least 70% in each section.
- 4) Submit to a criminal background check (processing fee applies).
- 5) Attend a mandatory class sponsored by the AOC on topics that include, but are not limited to, courtroom protocol, interpreter ethics, and legal terminology and procedure.
- 6) Execute the Oath of Interpreter.
- 7) Obtain interpreter ID badge for court proceedings.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Certified court interpreters must complete 16 hours of continuing education, two of which must be from an AOC approved ethics workshop, and verify 20 hours of court interpreting every two-year compliance period.

INTERPRETER OPPORTUNITIES

Court interpreters are engaged individually by each superior, district, and municipal court. There are varying numbers of certified court interpreters in different areas of the state, so explore opportunities to interpret by contacting your local courts before you decide whether to pursue certification.



What advantages do I have as a certified court interpreter?

By securing your credentials as a certified interpreter, your contact information will be available on the Administrative Office of the Courts' website, which is accessed by courts, interpreter coordinators, law offices, and other agencies seeking credentialed language interpreters.



As a certified court interpreter, you will have an advantage to be hired over non-credentialed interpreters in your language.