

INTERPRETER OPPORTUNITIES

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



What advantages do I have as a registered court interpreter?

By securing your credentials as a registered 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 registered court interpreter, you will have an advantage to be hired over non-credentialed interpreters in your language.

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 registered program, including access to the Written Exam Notification Form, please visit the Administrative Office of the Courts' website at www.courts.wa.gov (programs & orgs, court interpreters) or contact Tina Williamson at tina.williamson@courts.wa.gov.

WASHINGTON STATE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS



WASHINGTON
COURTS

REGISTERED COURT INTERPRETER PROGRAM

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

In 2005, the legislature appropriated funding to create the category of registered interpreters. The AOC and Court Interpreter Commission have established a program for testing and training of interpreters in languages for which certification is not available.

The registered court interpreter processes exist to aid the courts in identifying interpreters qualified to interpret in court proceedings.



The registered category is open to interpreters in the following languages.

Albanian	Japanese
Amharic	Javanese
Armenian	Malay
Bengali	Modern Greek
Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian	Mong
Bulgarian	Pashto
Cebuano	Persian Farsi
Chavacano	Polish
Czech	Portuguese
Dari	Punjabi
Dutch	Romanian (Moldovan)
French	Slovak
German	Swahili
Haitian Creole	Swedish
Hausa	Tagalog (Filipino)
Hebrew	Thai
Hindi	Turkish
Hmong	Urdu
Indonesian	Yoruba
Italian	

The registered program is not available for interpreters in languages where certification is offered: Arabic, Cantonese, Korean, Laotian, Mandarin, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese. Please see the brochure for the certified program for more information.

EXAMS

To become a registered court interpreter, you must pass a Written Exam and an Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI).

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). Candidates must pass the written exam with a score of 80% or better to be eligible to take the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI). The cost of the written exam is \$75.

Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI): The OPI is conducted by Language Testing International (LTI). This is a 30-40 minute telephonic interview between a tester who is certified by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and the interpreter. The interview measures how well the interpreter speaks the language in which he/she is attempting to become registered. The Court Interpreter Program has set the minimum proficiency level at **Superior**. This means that during the interview you must demonstrate the ability to:

- Speak the standard form of the language without using English or slang.
- Speak the language formally, as well as informally, from both concrete and abstract perspectives.

- Speak the language with a high level of accuracy and no pattern of error.
- State and support a point of view in extended discourse on topics of personal and general interest.
- Speculate and hypothesize about possible causes, outcomes, and/or occurrences in extended discourse.

The cost of the OPI is \$143 plus the cost of the telephone call.

REGISTERED ACCREDITATION

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

- 1) Pass the written exam with a score of 80% or better.
- 2) Attend a one-day orientation sponsored by the AOC.
- 3) Pass a language proficiency exam (OPI), administered by the AOC.
- 4) Submit to a criminal background check (processing fee applies).
- 5) Attend a mandatory class, sponsored by the AOC that includes, but 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

Every two years, registered court interpreters must complete ten (10) hours of continuing education, two of which must be from an AOC approved ethics workshop.