

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.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information regarding the registered program, including the Written Exam Notification form, please visit the Administrative Office of the Courts' website, www.courts.wa.gov/programs&orgs or contact Tina Williamson at (360) 705-5279 or tina.williamson@courts.wa.gov.

STUDY TIPS

- Increase your vocabulary of words in the target language.
- Learn idioms and slang.
- Practice pronunciation aloud.
- Read RCW Chapter 2.43 and Washington Court Evidence Rule 604.
- Familiarize yourself with General Rule 11.2, Code of Conduct for Court Interpreters.
- 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.

WASHINGTON STATE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS



WASHINGTON
COURTS

REGISTERED COURT INTERPRETER PROGRAM

July 2007



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 registration 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 program is not available for interpreters in languages where certification is offered, including: Arabic, Cantonese, Korean, Laotian, Mandarin, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese. Please see the brochure on 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 National Center for State Courts Consortium on State Court Interpreting. Candidates must pass the exam with a score of 80% or better. Candidates for all languages take the exam at the same time. The written exam includes English language vocabulary, court related terms, and ethics. The cost of the exam is \$30. Individuals who pass the written exam are eligible to take the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI).

Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI): The OPI is conducted by Language Testing International (LTI). This is a 20-30 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.

FINAL ACCREDITATION

Candidates who pass both exams must also complete the following before receiving accreditation as a registered court interpreter:

- 1) Attend the Introduction to Court Interpreting class;
- 2) Submit to a criminal background check; and
- 3) Execute the Oath of Interpreter.

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.



The registered category is open to language interpreters in the following languages:

Afrikaans	German	Persian Farsi
Albanian	Haitian Creole	Polish
Amharic	Hebrew	Portuguese
Baluchi	Hiligaynon	Punjabi
Bengali	Hindi	Romanian
Bulgarian	Hmong	Samoan
Cebuano	Ilonggo	Serbian
Chavacano	Indonesian	Slovak
Croatian	Italian	Swahili
Czech	Japanese	Swedish
Dari	Javanese	Tausug
Dutch	Khmer	Thai
Egyptian	Malay	Turkish
Filipino	Norwegian	Urdu
French	Pashto	Visayan