

CHOOSE A CAREER THAT PUTS YOUR SECOND LANGUAGE FIRST!



Now Accepting Applications!

BECOMING A COURT INTERPRETER

1

Determine if your language is a ***certified*** or ***registered*** language.

Certified languages:

American Sign Language, Arabic, Armenian (Eastern), Armenian (Western), Cantonese, Farsi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

All other languages are considered registered languages.

2

To become a ***certified*** California Court Interpreter, you must:

- Pass a *written exam*
- Pass a *bilingual interpreting exam*
- Take the on-line course “Interpreter Orientation: Working in the California Courts”
- Submit an application to the Judicial Council to become a certified interpreter
- Attend a Judicial Council Code of Ethics Workshop within your first two-year compliance period

To become a ***registered*** California Court Interpreter, you must:

- Pass a *written exam*
- Pass the *English oral proficiency exam*
- Pass the *oral proficiency exam in the non-English language*
- Take the on-line course “Interpreter Orientation: Working in the California Courts”
- Submit an application to the Judicial Council to become a certified interpreter
- Attend a Judicial Council Code of Ethics Workshop within your first two-year compliance period

Visit the [California Judicial Branch – Court Interpreters Program](#) to learn how to get started!

3

Once certified/registered, [submit a job application](#) online to work as a Court Interpreter for the Los Angeles Superior Court.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Is it necessary to have a degree to be a court interpreter?

Although there are no minimum requirements that must be met in order to take the state exams, candidates are encouraged to take additional language classes and training in the modes of interpretation. Although not required, there are several colleges and universities throughout the state that offer introductory courses and certificate programs in interpretation.

Is special training recommended to become a court interpreter?

Yes. Specialized training is recommended. The level of expertise required for this profession is greater than the fluency level required for everyday bilingual conversation. The interpreter must be able to handle a wide array of terminology that may be presented in court, ranging from specialized legal and technical terminology to street slang and idioms. Most people do not have full command of all registers of both English and the foreign language required for court interpreting, and need specialized training to acquire it.

For languages with no formal training available, the following self-study techniques are suggested: (1) expand your vocabulary, (2) develop your own glossaries, and (3) develop and practice interpreting techniques.

Suggested skills enhancing exercises are available to help you develop in the three modes of interpreting: (1) consecutive interpretation, (2) simultaneous interpretation, and (3) sight translation. These self-study techniques are also recommended even if formal training is available. You may discover more about self-study options at www.courts.ca.gov/programs-interpreters.htm.

What is the job market like for court interpreters?

The demand in Los Angeles County for certified and registered court interpreters is growing. With more than 140 cultures and as many as 224 languages, Los Angeles Superior Court serves one of the most diverse populations in the world. It is estimated that 56.8% of the county population speaks a language other than English at home. You will have the opportunity to experience California's cultural diversity firsthand and be part of a select group of specially trained professionals who have merged their language skills and their ideals of public service in the rewarding career of court interpreting.

Is U.S. citizenship required to be employed as a court interpreter?

U.S. citizenship is not required to work for the courts, however a court interpreter must be able to prove that he or she can work legally in the United States (possess a valid permanent resident card, or work permit issued by the USCIS authorities).

CONTACTS

Questions about becoming a certified/registered Court Interpreter:

California Judicial Branch – Court Interpreters Program

CourtInterpreters@jud.ca.gov

1-866-310-0689 (toll free)

Questions about employment with the Los Angeles Superior Court:

Los Angeles Superior Court – Recruitment & Staffing

MPenate@lacourt.org

1-213-633-0347