

BECOMING A CERTIFIED COURT INTERPRETER

STEP ONE

Complete orientation.

STEP TWO

Pass a written exam.

STEP THREE

Pass an oral certification exam. (If you speak a language where no oral certification exam exists, you may be eligible to take an Oral Proficiency Interview or OPI.)

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ Complete a character and fitness screening.
- ✓ Observe court.
- ✓ Sign an oath of office form.
- ✓ Maintain current contact information.
- ✓ Participate in continuing education.

FEES:

Orientation:

Online Option: \$175

In-person Option: \$250

Written Exam: \$70 (1st time); \$25 (subsequent times)

Oral certification exam: \$325; or

Oral Proficiency Interview: \$165

NOTE: Sign language interpreters must hold credentials through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), and must pass the written exam.

SAMPLE ORIENTATION AGENDA

Session 1

Lecture: Introduction to Court Interpreting & Overview of the Court System

Lecture: Criminal Terminology & Procedure

Lecture: Civil Terminology & Procedure

Session 2

Lecture: Court Interpreter Ethics & Role of the Interpreter in Court Procedure

Discussion: Court Interpreter Ethics & Role of the Interpreter in Court Procedure

Session 3

Lecture: Modes of Interpreting

Small Group Practice: Sight Translation & Consecutive Interpretation

Session 4

Small Group Practice: Simultaneous Interpretation

Lecture: Certification & Testing

phone | 608.266.8635

e-mail | alexandra.wirth@wicourts.gov

110 East Main Street | Suite #410

Madison, WI 53703-3328

For more information visit:

www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/index.htm

WISCONSIN COURT INTERPRETERS



ENSURING JUSTICE FOR ALL

Second language fluency is just the start to a new career. If you are fluent in another language, and are interested in the legal field, court interpretation may be the right choice for you.

INTERPRETER NEEDS



In 2021, the Wisconsin Court system used interpreters in over 65 different languages. Spanish, Hmong and American Sign Language (ASL) were the top three languages requested by the courts. Interpreters were also needed regularly in Arabic, Mandarin, Rohingya and Russian.

Court interpreters who complete the certification process generally possess language skills equivalent to an educated, native-like speaker; are able to interpret in three modes: sight translation, consecutive and simultaneous; and adhere to a professional Code of Ethics. While legal interpreting is a challenging profession, it comes with great rewards.

Frequently Asked Questions

How are court interpreters hired and how much can they make?

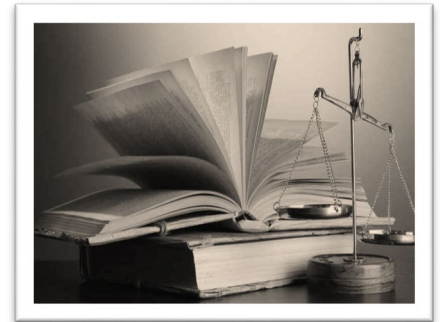
Court interpreters typically work as independent contractors hired directly by the county circuit courts. As contractors, the amount of interpreting hours will vary by language need, geographic location and credentials. Contract interpreters may earn anywhere from \$50-\$75 per hour. Some interpreters work independently while others opt to take assignments through an agency.

Who pays for the interpreters?

For court proceedings, it is the responsibility of the courts to provide and pay for the interpreter regardless of the limited English speaker's financial ability.

What is the Roster of Interpreters and how do I get listed on it?

The Roster of Interpreters is a registry of certified or qualified individuals maintained on the court's public website that entities use to locate and hire interpreters with legal training.



Interpreters who complete orientation, pass a written exam, achieve requisite scores on an oral exam, complete a character and fitness screening, and meet other program requirements are placed on the roster.

Besides the courts who else hires court interpreters?

Court interpreters can work in a variety of settings outside of court hearings such as in jails, police departments, attorneys' offices, (district attorneys and public defenders included) and administrative legal hearings.