



OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
Court Language Access Services

American Sign Language (ASL) Oregon Certified Court Interpreter Information

Thank you for your interest in the ASL Oregon Certified Court Interpreter Credential. Oregon Court interpreters are a vital part of the administration of justice.

Court interpreters must be educated speakers of English and proficient users of ASL. The court interpreter must have the ability to interpret all levels of discourse in court proceedings. A court interpreter must have knowledge of court procedures, protocols and maintain high ethical standards required by the Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters in the Oregon Courts. Court interpreters must commit to the process of life-long learning as set forth in the continuing education requirements outlined in the State Court Administrator's Policies for the Oregon Judicial Department's Oregon Certified Court Interpreter Program.

Requirements for the ASL Oregon Certified Court Interpreter Credential include:

- Hold a valid Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L) from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)
- Show proof of Oregon residency
- Pass a criminal history check
- Pass an ethics exam
- Document at least 20 hours of observation or interpreting services in courts of record in Oregon, consortium member states, federal courts of record, or where the interpreter is sworn in and the record can be presented into evidence in the past 12 months
- Complete an application to obtain ASL Oregon Certified Court interpreter status
- Attend an Ethics Orientation
- Take the Interpreter's Oath given by an Oregon State Court Judge

If you feel that you would be able to meet the high standards required of ASL Oregon Certified Court interpreters, please e-mail your contact information, (name, address, phone number, and e-mail address) to: Court.Interpreter.Program@ojd.state.or.us



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Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Providing ASL Interpreting Services in the Oregon Courts

What does a court interpreter do?

The court interpreter interprets in court proceedings, trials, omnibus hearings, arraignments, traffic court, motions hearings, civil hearings, juvenile and civil commitment hearings. The interpreter may provide service for State Release Officers, Verification Specialists, and other court staff to assist with interviews or to assist with providing non-legal general information to the deaf and hard of hearing public. The interpreter may assist in non-legal inquiries from the deaf and hard of hearing public and others, regarding court process, forms and dates. The interpreter may work as part of a team of interpreters and/or may provide interpreting services via Video Remote Interpreting. ASL Oregon Certified Court interpreters working for the OJD follow the Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters in Oregon Courts.

What knowledge, skills and abilities are required to interpret in court?

Court interpreters must possess a college-level vocabulary in both languages. They must have the ability to communicate complex information in both English and the interpreter's working language. Interpreters must be able to dual task and have extraordinary short term memory skills. The most qualified court interpreters have legal training and hours of legal interpreting experience.

How can I become an interpreter for court?

You must demonstrate that you have the appropriate certification and experience. At a minimum, ASL court interpreters should hold a RID generalist certification and have at least five years post certification experience. The preferred certification is the RID specialist Certification: Legal (SC:L)

What are RID generalist certifications?

National Interpreter Certification Master (NIC Master)
National Interpreter Certification Advanced (NIC Advanced)
National Interpreter Certification (NIC)
Certificate of Interpretation and Certificate of Transliteration (CI and CT)
Master Comprehensive Skills Certificate (MSC)
Comprehensive Skills Certificate (CSC)
IC/TC (Interpretation Certificate/Transliteration Certificate)



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OTC (Oral Transliteration Certificate)
National Association of the Deaf V (NAD V Master)

National Association of the Deaf IV (NAD IV Advanced Master)
National Association of the Deaf III (NAD III, Generalist)

I am enrolled in ASL Classes. Is that good enough for court interpreting?

No, ASL classes are not enough to prepare you for the complex, fast pace and legal terminology used in legal settings

I already hold a valid SC:L, can I call myself an ASL Oregon Certified Court Interpreter?

No, State law (ORS 45.292) prohibits anyone from using the title or designation of "certified" if the person is not certified by the Office of the State Court Administrator, the U.S. District Courts or another state court system using a test equivalent to the test used by the Oregon Certified Court Interpreter Program. So merely having an SC:L does not make an ASL interpreter an "Oregon Certified Court Interpreter." An ASL Oregon Certified Court Interpreter must complete all of the steps and requirements laid out in the process of becoming an ASL Oregon Certified Court interpreter.

How much will it cost to become an ASL Oregon Certified Court Interpreter?

As of July 1, 2009 the fees established for Oregon residents are \$100 for the ethics orientation and the ethics exam together.

How do I begin the ASL Oregon Certified Court Interpreter process?

Send an email to court.interpreter.program@ojd.state.or.us with your contact information (name, address, phone number(s), and email address to notify us of your interest in obtaining the credential

Can I begin the ASL Oregon Certified Court Interpreter process at any time?

Yes, an ASL interpreter can start the ASL Oregon Certification process at anytime.

What does the ethics exam include?

The ethics exam consists of 60 multiple choice ethics and professional conduct questions in English. The ethics exam must be passed with a score of 70 percent.

What does the ethics orientation include?

The ethics orientation is a full day workshop that covers the Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters in the Oregon Courts.

May I interpret without the certification?

State law requires that an ASL Oregon Certified Court Interpreter must be called to interpret first. If no ASL Oregon Certified Court Interpreter is available, the court may use a non-certified



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interpreter who presents qualifications that are acceptable to the court according to ORS (45.288).

How long will it take to become an ASL Oregon Certified Court Interpreter?

It may take as little as a few months or as long as a year depending on when a candidate starts the process and the availability of scheduled orientations and swearing in ceremonies.

Where can I find more information on the SC:L certificate?

Further information on the Specialist Certification: Legal can be found on the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf website, under Specialist certification or at the below website address.

http://www.rid.org/education/edu_certification/index.cfm/AID/46