

### *What are the qualification requirements?*

- ◆ Register with the Interpreter Certification Program
- ◆ Attend an orientation workshop
- ◆ Pass a multiple choice written English exam and, depending on your language, a translation assessment
- ◆ Pass a three part oral exam in the simultaneous, consecutive and sight modes, or based on the language, an oral proficiency interview and an oral English test
- ◆ Pass a background check
- ◆ Agree to abide by the Rules of Conduct for Judiciary Interpreters
- ◆ Renew qualifications every two years by completing 16 hours of continuing education
- ◆ Be at least 18 years old and a legal US resident

### *What are the costs?*

- ◆ State residents: between \$240-\$450
- ◆ Non-residents: between \$290-\$525

Costs vary depending on the language, which tests must be taken, and whether tests have to be retaken.

### For more information

Visit the Pennsylvania Interpreter Certification program website:

[pacourts.us/judicial-administration/court-programs/interpreter-program](http://pacourts.us/judicial-administration/court-programs/interpreter-program)

Or contact us at:

[InterpreterProgram@pacourts.us](mailto:InterpreterProgram@pacourts.us)



# AOPC

Interpreter Certification Program

1515 Market St., Suite 1414

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Do you speak another language fluently?

## Make a difference! Become a Court Interpreter



The Pennsylvania Judiciary needs the services of persons fluent in at least two languages to protect the due process rights of limited English speakers and provide access to court services.



# AOPC

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

## *Why become an interpreter?*

Court interpreters find their work satisfying for many reasons:

Commitment to Justice: An opportunity to help make sure that language barriers do not impede access to court services and protective rights.

Love of Languages: Fascination with the vitality, variability, complexity and creativity of human communication.

Intellectual Challenge: A chance to acquire extremely sophisticated skills requiring an agile mind, high power of concentration, and mental endurance.

Making a Difference: Ensuring that people accessing court services will have fair and equal access to justice and an opportunity to have their concerns addressed.

Public Service: A chance to help your own or adopted linguistic group, as well as the Judiciary, for the public good.

Career or Supplemental Income: You can do freelance work full or part-time, on your own or through agencies, for the courts and state and local governmental agencies. Compensation rates are between \$30-\$75 depending on qualifications. Interpreting is one of the top 10 fastest growing careers according to the U.S. Department of Labor.



## *Is there a need for my skills?*

Yes! Pennsylvania's courts need qualified people with great language skills to ensure that limited English proficient persons have effective access to our courts.

Pennsylvania is the tenth most linguistically diverse state in the country. Statewide, 10.2% of Pennsylvania's 12 million residents speak a language other than English at home. Over 100 languages are spoken in the state. This translates to many individuals who may need someone with excellent foreign and sign language skills to make sure they are understood and treated fairly when they go to court.

Thousands of times each year court interpreters speaking dozens of languages make a difference in people's lives.



## *What languages are needed?*

The most frequently requested languages are: Spanish, American Sign Language, Mandarin, Russian, Vietnamese, Arabic, Korean, Serbo-Croatian, Bosnian, Portuguese, and Polish.

But there is an increasing need for a wider variety of languages including Nepali, Khmer, Punjabi, Hindi, Tigrinya, Turkish, Amharic, Urdu, Burmese, Mandingo, Hausa, and others.

Interpreters of every language are needed on a daily basis by the 60 judicial districts.

## *Am I qualified to interpret?*

Interpreters must have the following:

- ◆ A native-like ability to speak and understand both English and another language. You must be proficient in both languages with an extensive knowledge of each language's vocabulary and dialects. You must also know how to read and write in both.
- ◆ An ability to interpret everything in court without adding, deleting, or changing anything.
- ◆ An ability to do three modes of interpretation: simultaneous, consecutive and sight.
- ◆ Possess ample vocabulary and world knowledge in a variety of fields and subjects especially legal vocabulary.
- ◆ Knowledge of courtroom protocol, a basic understanding of the judiciary system and a willingness to follow policies.

