

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What materials are used for training and testing?

Missouri belongs to the **Consortium for Language Access in the Courts** (formerly known as the Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification) through the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Our program is based on their model, using their materials and recommended practices.

2. Where do I find more information about becoming an interpreter, the tests, and the Consortium?

Our website (www.courts.mo.gov) has information under Court Services. The NCSC website (www.ncsc.org) has information and resources on the Consortium page under Associations.

3. Do I have to do all 3 phases if I teach language? Already interpret? Took several years of language training? Am State Department certified?

Yes, everyone working toward certification must do all 3 phases.

4. Is there reciprocity between members of the Consortium?

Missouri accepts completion of most members' orientation and passing Consortium test scores. If you plan to relocate, check with that member's contact for their reciprocity policy.

5. What is an abbreviated exam that is offered for some languages?

The exam does not test all modes of interpreting and certification is not available for those languages.

6. Is there anything else I can do if there is an abbreviated or no test in my language set?

After completing Phases 1 and 2, and then passing an oral proficiency interview (OPI) at the highest possible rating by a company selected by the Office of State Courts Administrator, you will be given a "registered" status.

7. How much work is there?

It varies by where you are located, where you are willing to travel, and your language set. As an independent contractor, the courts contact interpreters on an "as needed" basis. There are no staff interpreters in Missouri and is no guarantee of work.

8. How will anyone know when I'm certified or registered and how to contact me?

Certified and Registered interpreters are asked for contact information which is shared with the courts and posted on our website.

How do I get notified of events?

To be added to the mailing list for notification of scheduled interpreter certification events for Missouri or to sign up for an event, please send your *postal mailing address* and your language set in an email to: access2justice@courts.mo.gov, or call 573/751-4377 and ask for the Access to Justice Program.

Missouri Foreign Language Court Interpreter Program Events Scheduled From July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011

Promoting equal access to justice in courts by eliminating language barriers for persons with limited English proficiency.

Do you have the skills necessary to be a professional court interpreter?

1. Possess educated, native-like mastery of *both* English and a second language;
2. Display wide general knowledge, typical of what a minimum of two years of general education at a college or university would provide; and
3. Perform the three major types of court interpreting: sight interpreting, consecutive interpreting, and simultaneous interpreting.

*If numbers 1 & 2 describe you, and you are willing to develop the skills for number 3, court interpreting **may** be for you.*

Office of State Courts Administrator
Access to Justice Program
P.O. Box 104480
Jefferson City, MO 65110
573/751-4377
www.courts.mo.gov
access2justice@courts.mo.gov

Court interpreting is specialized and highly demanding, requiring skills that few bilingual individuals possess. **Paraphrasing and summarizing are not acceptable.** In order for Missouri's courts to provide qualified interpreters, the Office of State Courts Administrator conducts a Court Interpreter Certification Program that includes basic information about the interpreting profession, the code of professional responsibility, and modes of interpreting to persons with native-like mastery of English and a second language. Successful candidates must continue self study before taking the written test and the oral proficiency exam that tests interpreting skills. *Everyone working as an interpreter in court or considering interpreting is encouraged to attend the orientation and pursue certification or "registered" status.* The program consists of three (3) phases that must be completed in the order explained below.

PHASE 1: ORIENTATION

This first phase must be completed before any other part of the program. The 2-day workshop is open to any person at least 18 years of age with a *native-like mastery of English and a second language*. This is an introductory workshop that covers the interpreter's role and professional ethics, the modes of interpreting used in court, legal terminology, and court protocol. **Missouri residents pay \$175.00. Out of state residents pay \$325.00.**

DATES OFFERED

Sept. 11 & 12, 2010

Registration & Payment Deadline is 08/6/2010

March 5 & 6, 2011

Registration & Payment Deadline is 02/02/2011



OPTIONAL SPANISH INTERPRETING SKILLS BUILDING

Any English-Spanish candidates who have completed the orientation may take this advanced 2-day workshop. **Missouri residents pay \$125.00 for the workshop. Out of state residents pay \$175.00.**

DATE OFFERED

April 30 & May 1, 2011

Registration & Payment Deadline is 03/31/2011

PHASE 2: WRITTEN EXAM

After completing the orientation, candidates may register to take the written test. The 3-hour test covers English proficiency, legal terms, court protocol, ethical situations, and includes translation from English to a second language. The written test must be passed with 80% or greater before a candidate may schedule the oral exam. The test is rated offsite so test scores are not known for several weeks. Candidates do not take the written and oral tests the same weekend. **Missouri residents pay \$50.00. Out of state residents pay \$100.00.**

DATES OFFERED

Oct. 23, 2010

Registration & Payment Deadline is 09/22/2010

June 4, 2011

Registration & Payment Deadline is 05/03/2011

- **Events are held in Jefferson City.**
- **Travel expenses, lodging arrangements, and expenses, and meals are the responsibility of the attendee.**
- **Guests and children are not allowed.**
- **Tape recording is not permitted.**
- **Events are subject to cancellation or fee changes due to budgetary constraints or low enrollment.**

PHASE 3: ORAL PROFICIENCY EXAM

Candidates who have passed the written test may take the 1-hour oral exam testing their proficiency in sight translation, consecutive, and simultaneous interpreting. Each part of this exam must be passed with 70% or greater for a candidate to receive certification. Full oral exams are currently available in Cantonese, French, Haitian Creole, Hmong, Ilocano, Korean, Laotian, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.* **Missouri residents pay \$175.00 for the complete test. Out of state residents pay \$325.00.**

DATES OFFERED

Oct. 23 & 24, 2010

Registration & Payment Deadline is 09/22/2010

June 4 & 5, 2011

Registration & Payment Deadline is 05/03/2011

*Abbreviated exams are available in Arabic (Modern in sight and simultaneous, and Egyptian Colloquial in consecutive), Chuukese, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Marshallese, and Turkish.