



# LANGUAGE ACCESS OFFICE

## 2019 Idaho Court Interpreter Training & Certification Program

Idaho Court Administrative Rule 52 mandates a priority of appointment the courts and their designees must follow when appointing interpreters to cover cases. The same states that certified interpreters should be used unless there is good cause to deviate.

The Administrative Office of the Court has access to certification exams only in 16 languages. Interpreters who work in languages other than the ones listed below, must pursue a path to become Registered Court Interpreters.

|                          |            |            |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| Arabic                   | Korean     | Spanish    |
| Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian | Laotian    | Tagalog    |
| Cantonese                | Mandarin   | Turkish    |
| Creole                   | Polish     | Vietnamese |
| Hmong                    | Portuguese |            |
| Ilocano                  | Russian    |            |

To increase the number of trained interpreters, the Language Access Office has created a combination of in-person and online trainings. In-person trainings are offered in different locations across the state. Additionally, training and testing cycles are available yearly. Course description and registration forms are available online.



## Certified Interpreters

Currently, the Idaho Administrative Office of the Court offers certification for 16 different languages (see page 1). All other languages are covered by the Registered status.

Individuals interested in becoming certified as court interpreters must successfully complete the steps listed below. Up to two yearly cycles are available.

| <b>Step 1: Intro to Court Interpretation (Mandatory)</b>                 |   |
|--|---|
| January & June   | Online. Self-paced course designed to provide an orientation to the court interpreting profession. Language neutral. Mandatory.   |
| <b>Step 2: Ethics Review &amp; Written Exam Prep-Class (Mandatory)</b>   |   |
| April & September  | One day, in person class. Enhance understanding of professional conduct and ethics. Test-taking strategies and exam preparation. Language neutral.  |
| <b>Step 3: Written Exam Prep-Webinar (Optional)</b>                      |   |
| April & October  | 60-minute webinar covering test-taking techniques, exam preparation exercises. Language neutral.  |
| <b>Step 4: Written English Proficiency Exam (Mandatory)</b>              |   |
| May & November   | Multiple-choice questions on general language proficiency, court-related terms, ethics and professional conduct. Constructed to measure entry-level knowledge of English that a competent person working in the court would need. Passing score of 80 percent is required.  |
| <b>Step 5: Skill-Building Workshop (Optional)</b>                        |   |
| June & TBD   | Half-day in person workshop designed to provide participants one-on-one time with experienced faculty and intensive practice in the three modes of interpreting, in preparation for the oral certification exam. Language neutral workshop. All certification candidates are strongly encouraged to participate.  |
| <b>Step 6: Oral Court Interpreter Exam Preparation Course (Optional)</b> |   |
| August   | 8-week online course designed to improve an individual's chances of passing the oral certification exam. Training materials and study-plans are tailored to the needs of each individual. Highly interactive course that provides individualized feedback to the interpreter-candidate through the use of exercises and mock exams. All interpreter-candidates are strongly encouraged to participate to be better prepared for the oral exam. Spanish-specific workshop. |
| <b>Step 7: Oral Certification Exam (Mandatory)</b>                       |   |
| March & October  | Oral exam on simultaneous interpreting, consecutive interpreting, and sight translation. A candidate must receive a score of 70 percent or higher on all three sections to pass the exam. A passing score on the sight translation section of the exam is a minimum of 65 percent on each part of the sight translations, with an average of 70 percent overall.  |

## Registered Court Interpreters

The registered category and process is only available to those individuals who speak a language for which no certification exam exists. Individuals interested in becoming registered as court interpreters by the Idaho Administrative Office of the Courts must successfully complete the steps listed below. Up to two training cycles are available during the year.

| <b>Step 1: Intro to Court Interpretation (Mandatory)</b>               |   |
|--|---|
| January & June   | Online. Self-paced course designed to provide an orientation to the court interpreting profession. Language neutral.  |
| <b>Step 2: Ethics Review &amp; Written Exam Prep-Class (Mandatory)</b> |   |
| March & September  | One day, in person class. Enhance understanding of professional conduct and ethics. Test-taking strategies and exam preparation. Language neutral.  |
| <b>Step 3: Written Exam Prep-Webinar (Optional)</b>                    |   |
| April & October  | 60-minute webinar covering test-taking techniques, exam preparation exercises. Language neutral.  |
| <b>Step 4: Written English Proficiency Exam (Mandatory)</b>            |   |
| May & November   | Multiple-choice questions on general language proficiency, court-related terms, ethics and professional conduct. Constructed to measure entry-level knowledge of English that a competent person working in the court would need. Passing score of 80 percent is required.  |
| <b>Step 5: Skill-Building Workshop (Optional)</b>                      |   |
| June & TBD   | One-day in person workshop designed to provide participants one-on-one time with experienced faculty and intensive practice in the three modes of interpreting, in preparation for the oral certification exam. Language neutral workshop. This is an optional workshop. However, all candidates are strongly encouraged to attend. |
| <b>Step 6: Foreign Language Proficiency Assessment (Mandatory)</b>     |   |
| TBD  | Oral exam measuring foreign language speaking and comprehension skills. The AOC will seek to administer the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) from language testing agencies. Examples of said companies may include Language Testing International, ALTA Language Services, Inc. or Versant.  |