

## **Supreme Court of Louisiana**

### **Policy for Court Interpreter Certification and Reciprocity**

The following policy of the Louisiana Supreme Court for language interpreters to become “Certified” court interpreters in Louisiana is hereby adopted. Such policy shall apply to spoken languages only.

1. **Oral Certification Examination:** To become a “Certified” court interpreter in Louisiana, a candidate must pass the National Center of State Court (NCSC) Oral Certification Examination (oral exam) as administered in Louisiana in accordance with NCSC testing protocols. To be eligible to apply to take the oral examination, a court interpreter must be “Registered” in Louisiana in accordance with the Supreme Court’s “Policy for Court Interpreter Registration, Testing and Re-Testing”.

For languages in which the NCSC oral exam is unavailable, an abbreviated NCSC oral examination and/or other oral proficiency examinations or interviews may be utilized as determined on a per language basis.

To pass the Oral Examination for Certification, a candidate must achieve a score of seventy percent (70%) on each of the three sections (Sight Translation, Consecutive Interpretation, and Simultaneous Interpretation). The scores for parts one and two of the sight translation section shall be combined for one overall score. A candidate must pass all three sections in the same test sitting. A candidate who fails to achieve a passing score on one or more of the three sections must re-take the entire oral exam.

1.1 **Re-testing:** If another version of the NCSC Oral Certification Examination for the same language is available, a candidate must wait at least six (6) months before taking such different version. A candidate must wait at least twelve (12) months before re-taking the same version of the NCSC oral exam.

2. **Reciprocity:** Court interpreters who are certified by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts or are certified by the Courts in another state from having passed the NCSC Oral Certification Examination, may apply for state reciprocity in Louisiana. Such state certified interpreter must have received the same passing score on the NCSC Oral Certification Examination as required for certification in Louisiana. For languages in which there is no NCSC Oral Certification Examination, reciprocity will be considered on a case by case basis.

To be considered for reciprocity in the interpreter’s language of expertise, the applicant must:

- a. File an application for reciprocity and tender a non-refundable application fee.
- b. Provide proof of state and/or federal certification including scores received on the applicable test. Such certification must be current in the issuing state or federal program and may not be temporary or conditional.
- c. Agree to be bound by Part G, Section 14 of the General Administrative Rules for all Louisiana Courts: “The Code of Professional Responsibility for Language Interpreters”.

- d. Pass a criminal background check.
- e. Complete a 2 day Louisiana court interpreter orientation.

The orientation requirement may be partially waived at the discretion of the Judicial Administrator's Office (JAO) if the candidate has recently attended a substantially similar orientation in another state. Interpreters granted reciprocity will be listed on the Louisiana Supreme Court's list of certified interpreters as being certified by the appropriate federal or state court with reciprocity granted in Louisiana.