

What is Court Interpreting?

Court interpreters interpret for people in a courtroom setting who cannot communicate effectively in English or are deaf or hard of hearing. The goal of the court interpreter is to place the non-English speaking person on equal footing with an English-speaking person.

You may interpret for defendants and witnesses in criminal court, as well as litigants and witnesses in family and civil courts. Interpreters participate in virtually every type of case in the state court system. Matters range from personal injury cases, small claims, landlord/tenant disputes, traffic, domestic violence, child support, sexual assault, drug offenses, arson, and DUI, to name a few.



Languages

Do you speak...?

- ◆ Spanish
- ◆ Somali
- ◆ Karen S'gaw
- ◆ Hmong
- ◆ American Sign Language
- ◆ Arabic
- ◆ Vietnamese
- ◆ Oromo
- ◆ Russian
- ◆ Amharic
- ◆ Mandarin
- ◆ Swahili

These are the most requested languages in our district courts.

Interested in becoming a Court Interpreter?

To get started, visit our website to register for an upcoming written test.

<https://mncourts.gov>

Help Topics → Interpreter Resources → Become a Court Interpreter

Other Online Resources

National Center for State Courts:
<https://www.ncsc.org/education-and-careers/state-interpreter-certification>

COURT INTERPRETER PROGRAM

State Court Administrator's Office



Phone: (651) 297-5300

Email:

mncourtinterpreterprogram@courts.state.mn.us



**MINNESOTA
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

BECOME A COURT INTERPRETER



Career Opportunities

Most court interpreters are independent contractors or work through an interpreting agency. The demand for interpreters depends on the language you speak. Some court interpreters work full-time for the court system while others work less frequently.

Interpreters listed on the Roster of Court Interpreters on the Minnesota Judicial Branch's public website may also be contacted by other State agencies or private law firms and offered work in settings such as attorney-client meetings, depositions, witness preparation sessions, and interviews with court personnel.

**Our
Mission
at MJB**

To provide justice through a system that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies

What does it take to be a Court Interpreter?

Court interpreting can be very fast-paced and requires the use of cognitive skills including:

1. Listening
2. Comprehending the intended meaning
3. Extracting the message from the words and the word order
4. Storing / remembering the ideas
5. Searching for the conceptual and semantic matches
6. Reconstructing the message in the other language
7. All this while speaking and listening for the next chunk of language to process!



Join the Roster of Qualified Court Interpreters

1. Pass the English Proficiency written test.
2. Attend the multi-day Orientation Training.
3. Pass the Legal Process, Terminology and Ethics written test.
4. Pass a criminal background check.
5. Complete the application process.
6. Submit an affidavit that you will follow all program policies and the Code of Professional Responsibility.

Oral Certification Exams

Additional certification is available in the following languages:

Amharic, Arabic, Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian, Cantonese, Filipino (Tagalog), French, Haitian Creole, Hmong, Khmer, Korean, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Somali, Turkish and Vietnamese.