

Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts Court Interpreter Orientation and Testing Announcement

SAVE THE DATE

PART 1: ORIENTATION

To be placed on the AOIC Court Interpreter Registry, candidates must first attend a two-day orientation. The two-day orientation is open to any person at least 18 years of age with a native-like mastery of English and a second language. This orientation covers the interpreter's role and professional ethics, the modes of interpreting used in court, legal terminology and court protocol. Candidates are expected to continue self-study before taking the written and oral exams.

Sign language and deaf interpreters are only required to attend orientation and will not be tested by the AOIC. Candidates must submit proof of Advanced or Master's level licensure with the IDHHC to attend orientation.

FEE: \$200

DATES OFFERED:

April 18-19, 2015

Chicago, IL

Registration deadline: April 10, 2015

August 22-23, 2015

Springfield, IL

Registration deadline: August 14, 2015

PART 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 and ethical situations. Candidates must pass with a score of 80% or higher.

FEE: \$50

DATES OFFERED:

May 15, 2015

Chicago, IL

Registration deadline: May 1, 2015

September 18, 2015

Springfield, IL

Registration deadline: September 4, 2015

WRITTEN EXAM RETAKES

For those that took the written exam between November 2014 and January 2015 and did not pass, the following dates are available for retake. The fee is \$50. **Registration deadline: July 1, 2015.**

July 10, 2015

Springfield, IL

July 17, 2015

Chicago, IL

PART 3: ORAL EXAM

Candidates who have passed the written test may take the 1-hour oral exam testing their skills in sight translation, consecutive, and simultaneous interpreting. Candidates must pass with 70% or greater for a candidate to receive certification.

Full oral exams are currently available in Cantonese, French, Haitian Creole, Hmong, Ilocano, Khmer, Korean, Lao, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese. Abbreviated exams are available in Arabic (Modern Standard) and Bosnian-Serbian-Croatian, Marshallese and Turkish.

**Fee: \$170 for Spanish
\$200 for all other languages**

DATES OFFERED:

July 17, 24, 31, 2015

Chicago, IL

By appointment only

Registration deadline: June 15, 2015

October 30, 2015

Springfield, IL

By appointment only

Registration deadline: October 5, 2015

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 16, 2015. Please visit the AOIC website to register: <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/CivilJustice/LanguageAccess/default.asp>

Do you have the skills necessary to be a certified 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, consecutive and simultaneous.

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

Certification process

Attend Orientation



Pass written exam at 80%. Listed on AOIC registry as "registered"



Pass oral exam at 70%. Listed on AOIC registry as "certified"

What materials are used for training and testing?

Illinois belongs to the Council of Language Access Coordinators through the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Our program is based on their model and uses their recommended practices and exams.

Will the AOIC offer reciprocity?

Yes, Illinois accepts completion of most states' orientation and proof of NCSC exam scores, and proof of federal certification. As long as all other certification requirements are met, such candidates will be listed on the Registry. Sign language and deaf interpreters must attend the two-day orientation and submit proof of Advanced or Master's level licensure with the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission to be listed on the Registry. Sign language and deaf interpreters are not tested by the AOIC.

Do I have to go through all three phases if I teach language, already interpret, and took several years of language training?

Yes, everyone working toward certification must participate in all three phases.

How much work is there?

It varies by where you are located, where you are willing to travel and your language set. The need for interpreters across the state is high, but funding to hire interpreters varies by county. As an independent contractor, the circuit county courts contact interpreters on an "as needed" basis.

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 16, 2015.

To find out more information and to register, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/CivilJustice/LanguageAccess/default.asp> or contact Sophia Akbar, AOIC Language Access Services Specialist, at 312-793-2013 or sakbar@illinoiscourts.gov.