

State Court Interpreter Information – Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do I go about becoming a state court interpreter?

- A. NCSC is not a credentialing entity for state court interpreters; the credentialing of state court interpreters is established by the individual states. In order to become a state court interpreter, you must register and meet the specific requirements of the state in which you would like to interpret. You may find state contact information and additional information on the program in your state of residence through our map of Language Access Programs by State: <http://www.ncsc.org/Services-and-Experts/Areas-of-expertise/Language-access/Resources-for-Program-Managers/LAP-Map/Map.aspx>.

For additional information about court interpreting in general, please visit the “Resources for Court Interpreters” webpage on the NCSC site located at: <http://www.ncsc.org/Education-and-Careers/State-Interpreter-Certification.aspx>.

Q. Where do I locate my state’s contact information regarding court interpreting?

- A. To locate the contact information for court interpreter program staff in your state of residence or a state of interest, please visit the map of language access programs on the NCSC website, located at: <https://www.ncsc.org/services-and-experts/areas-of-expertise/language-access/resources-for-program-managers/lap-map/map>.

The individual state links on the map of language access programs lead to the contact information of the appropriate Language Access Coordinator in your state’s court system, as well as other information about your state’s court interpreter program. You will also see a link to the state’s web site, where you can find additional information about the state’s processes and procedures for court interpreters to become credentialed.

Q. Where do I find information about the Written and Oral Examinations?

- A. The following NCSC webpage will provide you with information about the Written and Oral Examinations: <http://www.ncsc.org/Services-and-Experts/Areas-of-expertise/Language-access/Written-and-Oral-Exam-Resources.aspx>.

A list of the NCSC oral exam languages available for administration by state courts is available at the following link: https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/74512/Oral_Exam_Ready_for_Administration-August-2023.pdf.

Direct links to the NCSC’s court interpreter examination overview manuals for the written and oral examinations are provided below:

Examination Overview Manuals

[Written Exam](#)

[Oral Exam](#)

Please note that not all states use NCSC examination materials in their credentialing programs. For languages in which NCSC oral exams are not available, states may also administer other proficiency evaluations as part of their credentialing.

Q. What is NCSC's process for determining languages for the development of oral examinations?

A. NCSC makes recommendations about exam development activities based on national use and need for a language, input from state language access program managers, and in accordance with the *Policy for the Development and Modification of Test Inventory*. All final decisions regarding exam development activities are made by the Language Access Advisory Committee. The *Policy* may be found at the following link:

https://www.ncsc.org/_data/assets/pdf_file/0027/19647/policy-for-development-and-modification-of-test-inventory-111016.pdf.

For more information on the Language Access Advisory Committee, see <https://www.ncsc.org/consulting-and-research/areas-of-expertise/interpreter-info/about-us>.

Q. What other resources for court interpreters are available on the website?

A. Additional resources for court interpreters available on the website are:

1. [States' testing schedules \(insofar as reported by the states.\)](#)
2. [Certification requirements by state.](#)
3. [List of available written and oral exams.](#)
4. [Self-assessment tools, glossaries, and dictionaries.](#)
5. [Court Interpreter Practice Materials](#)

Q. I am already credentialed as a state court interpreter in one state, but I am interested in becoming credentialed in another state. How does reciprocity work between the states?

A. While many states administer the NCSC Oral Examination, each state is solely responsible for certifying and otherwise recognizing interpreters to practice in their courts. If you are already credentialed as a state court interpreter in one state, but are interested in becoming credentialed in another state, we advise you to contact the appropriate court interpreting office in that state for complete information on the requirements and process for becoming a court interpreter. Language Access Coordinator contact information is available on our [map of Language Access Programs by State](#).

Q. I am already credentialed but do not have a record of my NCSC oral examination scores. How can I get a copy?

A. Contact the Language Access Coordinator of the state where you took the oral examination and were originally credentialed. The Language Access Coordinator contact for each state is available on our [map of Language Access Programs by State](#).

Federal Court Interpreter Certification Examination

- Q. **How do I go about becoming a federal court interpreter?**
- A. The credentialing of federal court interpreters is administered by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Please refer to the Federal Court Interpreters webpage, on the website of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, at <https://www.uscourts.gov/services-forms/federal-court-interpreters>.