

Qualifications Categories

§ 320.10 Federally Certified Interpreters

1. A certified interpreter has successfully passed the Federal Court Interpreter Certification Examination (FCICE). Certification testing programs have been developed and administered for Spanish, Navajo, and Haitian Creole. The FCICE is a criterion-referenced performance examination ([28 U.S.C. §1827\(b\)\(1\)](#)) developed and administered under the supervision of the AO District Court Administration Division. Information on the certification program is available from the [Federal Court Interpreters](#) page on the judiciary's public website.

See: "Guide to Judiciary Policy. Vol. 5 Court Interpreting"

§ 320.20.30 Professionally Qualified Interpreters

1. The category of professionally qualified interpreters applies only to languages other than Spanish, Navajo, and Haitian Creole. Credentials for professionally qualified interpreters require sufficient documentation and authentication, and must meet the criteria in one of the following:

(a) Passed the State Department conference or seminar interpreter test in a language pair that includes English and the target language. The State Department's escort interpreter test is not accepted as qualifying.

(b) Passed the interpreter test of the United Nations in a language pair that includes English and the target language.

(c) Is a current member in good standing of:

(1) the [Association Internationale des Interprètes de Conférence](#) (AIIC); or

(2) [The American Association of Language Specialists](#) (TAALS).

The language pair of the membership qualification must be English and the target language.

(d) For sign language interpreters, someone who holds the Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L) of the [Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf](#) (RID).

See: "Guide to Judiciary Policy. Vol. 5 Court Interpreting"

§ 320.20.40 Language Skilled/*Ad Hoc* Interpreters

(a) An Interpreter who does not qualify as a professionally qualified interpreter, but who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the court the ability to interpret court proceedings from English to a designated language and from that language into English, will be classified as a language skilled/*ad hoc* interpreter.

(b) This group includes all individuals not certified or professionally qualified, who, through a precisely structured voir dire process, can be deemed competent to handle simultaneous and/or consecutive interpretation and/or sight translation with sufficient language proficiency in both English and the target language.

(c) In some instances, the presiding judge may need to take extra time and make special accommodations to ensure that the proceedings can be conveyed through the language skilled/*ad hoc* interpreter. For example, in some languages for which there are few interpreters, it may be difficult or impossible to find interpreters with the skills to interpret a court proceeding simultaneously. In addition, some interpreters may profess to have simultaneous skills that prove inadequate for a court proceeding. When this occurs, the presiding judge may need to instruct the parties to speak slowly in order to allow the interpreter time to interpret consecutively. The presiding judge and parties may also need to simplify the language they use, or explain the meaning of some legal terms, so that the interpreter may understand what the parties are saying and transmit it to the non-English speaker.

See: "Guide to Judiciary Policy. Vol. 5 Court Interpreting"

California Certified Interpreter: Has passed the Judicial Council's Court Interpreter Certification Examination in one of the twelve (12) designated languages. The court interpreter must meet the following requirements for certification: file for certification with the Judicial Council; pay the annual fee; attend a Judicial Council Code of Ethics Workshop; and submit proof of 30 hours of continuing education and 40 assignments of recent professional interpreting experience every two years.

See: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov>

California Registered Interpreter: Interprets in a spoken language for which there is no state certification exam, and has passed the English Fluency Examination. The court interpreter must satisfy the following requirements: file for registration with the Judicial Council; pay an annual fee; attend a Judicial Council Code of Ethics Workshop; Attend a Judicial Council Orientation Workshop; and meet the requirements developed for court interpreters regarding continuing education and professional experience.

See: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov>