

Interpreter Requirements for Maine Courts

Court interpreters must be able to demonstrate oral and written proficiency in both English and target language(s). Proficiency includes the following:

- Ability to quickly, completely, and accurately interpret spoken words from one language to another and to quickly, accurately, and completely sight translate written documents verbally from one language to another;
- Understanding of basic legal terminology and familiarity with medical terminology;
- Ability to perform simultaneous, sight and consecutive interpretation;
- Ability to provide “meaning for meaning” interpreting, preserving the register of speech and all of its relevant characteristics; and
- Ability to write comprehensively and spell correctly in both languages.

Age and Eligibility:

- Must be at least 20 years old;
- Must have high school diploma or equivalent; some university education preferred; and
- Must be authorized to work in the United States.

Education, Experience and Credentials:

Tier One (pay rate \$35 per hour)

- Must file an approved application;
- Must pass English skills written exam with a score of 70 or higher;
- Must pass oral test in the target language;
- Must successfully complete Maine Court Interpreters Orientation Program; and
- Prior legal interpreting experience is preferred.

Tier Two (pay rate \$45 per hour)

Same requirements as listed above for Tier One, and

- Must pass the English skills written exam with a score of 80 or higher;
- Must complete Advanced Legal Interpreter Training Program (4 days) and pass the terminology and law section of the English written test;
- Must demonstrate at least 50 hours of legal interpreting experience (at the discretion of the Judicial Branch, 80 hours of documented observation of court interpreting may be substituted for languages that are infrequently used in court proceedings); and
- Must have a two-year university degree.

Tier Three (pay rate \$50 per hour)

Same requirements as listed above for Tier One and Tier Two, and

- Must have completed the on-line advanced training (16 hours); and
- Must have federal certification or state certification (National Center for State Courts Consortium member states).

Other Requirements:

- Must agree to abide by the Maine Judicial Branch Policy Concerning Standards of Professional Conduct for Interpreters Providing Services in Judicial Proceedings; and
- Must submit to having a criminal history check completed by the Judicial Branch.