

# 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.

#### Orientation Fee: \$200

**October 12<sup>th</sup> and October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Registration Deadline: October 1, 2024**

Will be online via Zoom, held on two Saturdays, must attend both days.

#### PART 2: WRITTEN EXAM

After completing the orientation, candidates may register to take the written test. The 2 hour and 15 minute test covers English proficiency, legal terms, court protocol and ethical situations. Candidates must pass with a score of 80% or higher to be eligible to take an oral exam or oral proficiency interview.

#### Written Exam Fee: \$50

#### Written Dates Offered:

**April 22, 2024**

**Registration Deadline: April 19, 2024**

**June 10, 2024**

**Registration Deadline: June 7, 2024**

**August 26, 2024**

**Registration Deadline: August 23, 2024**

**November 4, 2024**

**Registration Deadline: November 1, 2024**

(Above dates in Chicago, IL)

#### OPTIONAL SKILL BUILDING COURSE

If you attended 2-day orientation and passed the written exam, the AOIC offers subsidized skill building courses for those preparing for the oral exam or OPI. Fees vary on course.

#### Skill Building Fee: \$75

**June 8<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Registration Deadline: June 1, 2024**

#### 'Spanish Specific Skill Building'

Will be online via Zoom, held on two Saturdays, must attend both days.

#### PART 3: ORAL EXAM or OPI

Candidates who have passed the written test may take the NCSC oral exam testing their skills in sight translation, consecutive, and simultaneous interpreting. The exam is offered in 22 languages. Candidates must pass with 70% or higher to be listed on the AOIC Court Interpreter Registry as "Certified." Candidates must pass with a 60% or higher to be listed as "Registered."

If you speak a language that is not offered by the NCSC oral exam, you may be able to take an oral proficiency interview (OPI), if available in your language. You must receive the highest score to be listed as "Qualified."

#### Oral Exam Fee:

**\$225 for all languages**

#### Oral Exam Dates Offered:

**April 26, 2024-Closed Full**

**July 26, 2024-Closed Full**

**October 25, 2024**

**Registration Deadline: The First of Each Month**

(Above dates in Chicago, IL)

#### OPI Fee: \$130 for all languages

#### OPI Exam:

Please contact [nalawawda@illinoiscourts.gov](mailto:nalawawda@illinoiscourts.gov) to schedule the exam at your convenience. You must contact the AOIC two weeks in advance.

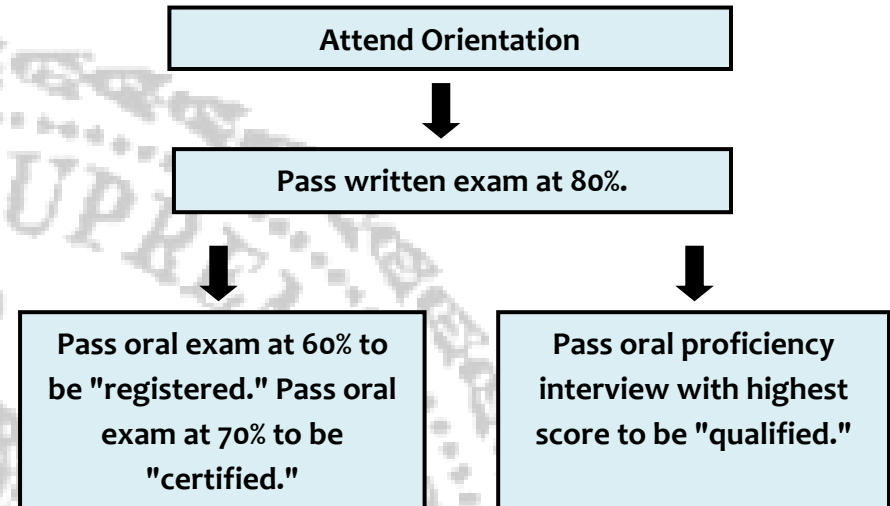
**REGISTRATION OPEN:** Please visit the AOIC website to register: <https://courtapps.illinoiscourts.gov/>

## 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



## 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 OPEN

To find out more information and to register, visit <https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/public/find-a-language-interpreter/> or contact Noor Alawawda, AOIC Senior Program Manager, Language Access, at 217-208-3327 or [nalawawda@illinoiscourts.gov](mailto:nalawawda@illinoiscourts.gov)