

## **Court Interpreter Opt Out Guidelines** **Updated March 17, 2009**

### **Background Information**

An “Opt Out” is an independent court interpreter who elected not to become a court employee during the specific 2003-2004 window of time provided to certain court interpreters for making this decision, following the enactment of SB371 and SB 818. In order to be eligible to become an Opt Out, the interpreter had to meet certain criteria related to their age and number of years of experience. “Opt Out Status” refers to the status of such an interpreter, as further described below, and confers special privileges with regard to receiving assignment priority over other independent contractors, and exclusion from the 100-day rule.

### **Court Interpreter Opt Out Guidelines**

The following bullets summarize Court Interpreter Program Opt Out guidelines.

- Opt Out interpreters must have originally become Opt Outs in 2003–2004 under the provisions of SB 371 or SB 818 (effective date 1/1/2004) (Government Code sections 71800–71829).
- Opt Out Status does not apply to languages in which an interpreter is neither certified nor registered.
- Opt Out interpreters may keep their Opt Out Status for as long as they continue to be qualified independent interpreters (either registered or certified) in any language. Their Opt Out Status applies to any languages in which they are or subsequently become qualified (certified or registered), as long as there is no time during which they are qualified in zero languages.
- Interpreters with Opt Out Status who leave their Opt Out Status by choice, such as by becoming an employee interpreter, permanently lose their Opt Out Status.
- Opt Out interpreters who at any point lose their qualifying status by becoming certified or registered in zero languages, permanently lose their Opt Out Status.