



## Consortium Test Reciprocity Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is test reciprocity and what does it mean for me?**

If you have taken and passed an oral interpreting exam developed by the Consortium for Language Access in the Courts (Consortium), you may qualify for *test reciprocity* by the Judicial Council of California's Court Interpreters Program.

Test reciprocity means that California will reciprocate (honor) your scores on a Consortium oral interpreting exam taken outside of California, provided the criteria listed below are met. If California grants reciprocity based on your test scores, you are not required to retake the oral interpreting exam in the language for which you are seeking certified status. If reciprocity is granted, you will be required to complete the enrollment process specified for all California interpreters.

*→ Please note that the California Court Interpreters Program will only recognize oral bilingual interpreting exam standards and scores that meet or exceed the requirements in California.*

### **Who is eligible for reciprocity?**

The California Court Interpreters Program will grant reciprocity to interpreters who have passed Consortium oral interpreting exams in other member states if the following conditions are met:

1. The interpreter passed all four sections (including both sight translation sections) of the Bilingual Oral Interpreting Exam with **70% or higher** in each section; or
2. The interpreter passed the Abbreviated Oral Exam<sup>1</sup> with **70% or higher** on the simultaneous portion and a requisite score on the oral English proficiency section; and,
3. The interpreter passed all portions of the oral exam in **one** sitting; and
4. Passed all portions of the oral exam in **one** state.

### **How do I apply for reciprocity?**

If you meet the listed criteria above, please email [courtinterpreters@jud.ca.gov](mailto:courtinterpreters@jud.ca.gov) and request a *California Court Interpreter Eligibility Verification Form*. Please fill out *all sections* of the form and email it to [courtinterpreters@jud.ca.gov](mailto:courtinterpreters@jud.ca.gov)

Verification of your eligibility can take between **30-45 business days**. The Court Interpreters Program will notify you via email once your eligibility status has been confirmed.

---

<sup>1</sup> The abbreviated exam is administered in some member states for the following languages: Chuukese; Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian; Marshallese; and Turkish. If reciprocity conditions are met for these languages, the interpreter will be granted registered status in California, as these are not California certified languages. For more information, please contact [courtinterpreters@jud.ca.gov](mailto:courtinterpreters@jud.ca.gov).



## Consortium Test Reciprocity Frequently Asked Questions

### **When will I be eligible to work in California as a certified or registered interpreter?**

Once eligibility requirements are verified, the Court Interpreters Program will send you an enrollment packet. The enrollment process requires a completed application, payment of an enrollment fee, and submission of a recent photo.

You will be recognized as a California court interpreter after you complete the enrollment process. Once your enrollment is complete, you will be added to the *Master List of Certified Court and Registered Interpreters* (Master List). The Master List is used by the California courts and the public to identify, locate, and contract with qualified interpreters. You will also receive a badge showing your status.

In order to maintain status as a certified court or registered California interpreter you must abide all compliance requirements which include submitting an annual renewal fee and fulfilling the continuing education and professional assignments requirements approved by the California Judicial Council. For information visit: <https://www.courts.ca.gov/23507.htm>

### **What is the difference between certified and registered status in California?**

Your status is based on the language in which you interpret. Currently, California offers certification status for the following languages: Arabic, Eastern Armenian, Western Armenian, Cantonese, Farsi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

Certified or registered interpreters on California's Master List can work as either independent contractors or as employees of a specific court, subject to opportunity.

Interpreters seeking work in California under test reciprocity need to **first** complete the application and enrollment processes described above **before** contacting the courts.

### **Who is not eligible for reciprocity?**

Interpreters who had their California certified court or registered interpreter status revoked due to non-compliance with annual renewal requirements, but still maintain court interpreting credentials in another state, or are still federally certified (FCICE) court interpreters, are not eligible for reciprocity unless they re-take the qualifying examinations currently in place.

Interpreters of registered languages are not eligible for reciprocity. To gain registered status you may taking the exams currently in place. For more information visit:

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/2695.htm>