



State of Maine Judicial Branch Court Interpreter Requirements



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

- Ability to quickly, completely, and accurately interpret spoken words from one language to another;
- Ability to quickly, accurately, and completely sight translate written documents orally from one language to another;
- Understanding of basic legal 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, Education, and Credentials:

- At least 20 years of age;
- High school diploma or equivalent;
- Must be authorized to work in the United States; and
- Prior legal interpreting experience is preferred.

Additional Requirements:

- Must agree to abide by the Maine Judicial Branch Policy - [Standards of Professional Conduct for Interpreters Providing Services in Judicial Proceedings](#); and
- Must submit to and pass a background check completed by the Judicial Branch.

Qualifications for Tier I — \$35 per interpreting hour pay rate*:

- File an approved Application for Maine Court Interpreter Work;
- Pass the [National Center for State Courts Written Examination](#) with a score of 70% or higher;
- Obtain a minimum of “Advanced – Low” rating on [ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview](#) in the target language;
- Complete the Maine Court Interpreters Orientation Program (2 days).

Qualifications for Tier II — \$45 per interpreting hour pay rate*:

- Successful completion of Tier I requirements AND
- Two years at least of post-secondary education;
- Pass the [National Center for State Courts Written Examination](#) with a score of 80% or higher;
- Complete the Maine Court Interpreter Advanced Legal Training Program (4 days);
- 50 hours of documented legal interpreting experience.

Qualifications for Tier III — \$50 per interpreting hour pay rate*:

- Successful completion of Tier II requirements AND
- Obtain [Federal Court certification](#) (OR)
Satisfactory completion of all three sections of the [NCSC Oral Examination](#)

*Maine Court Interpreters are also paid for travel time and reimbursed for mileage expenses pursuant to current policy