

Consortium Test Reciprocity Frequently Asked Questions

What is test reciprocity and what does it mean to 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* under new rules recently adopted by the state of California.

Test reciprocity means that California will reciprocate (honor) your scores on a Consortium oral interpreting exam taken outside of California so long as the criteria listed below are met. If California grants reciprocity on these scores, you will not have to retake the oral interpreting exam in the language for which you are seeking certified or registered status. If your scores are acceptable, you would also need to complete the enrollment process specified for all California interpreters.

Please continue reading for a description of the application and enrollment processes.

→ Please note that the California Court Interpreters Program will only recognize oral interpreting exam standards and scores that meet or exceed the requirements in California. Please read on for more information.

Who is eligible for reciprocity?

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

- 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
- The interpreter passed the Abbreviated Oral Exam¹ with **70% or higher** on the simultaneous portion and a requisite score on the oral English proficiency section; AND
- The interpreter passed all portions of the oral exam in **one** sitting; AND
- The interpreter 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 and request a *California Court Interpreter Eligibility Verification Form*. Please fill out *all parts* of the form and email it to courtinterpreters@jud.ca.gov. Verification of your

¹ The Abbreviated Exam is administered in some member states for the following languages: Chuukese; Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian; Marshallese; and Turkish. For more information, please contact courtinterpreters@jud.ca.gov.

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

When will I be able to work in California as a certified or registered interpreter?

If you meet the eligibility requirements, the Court Interpreters Program will send you an enrollment packet. The enrollment process requires a completed application, payment of a fee², and the submission of a recent photo.

You will be required to enroll and maintain status as a certified or registered California court interpreter by fulfilling the professional requirements approved by the California Judicial Council. California has a continuing education requirement for all interpreters.

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

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, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.³ Interpreters in all other languages can obtain registered status in California. Certified and registered interpreters receive the same rate of pay. 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.

² Enrollment fees and annual renewal fees are subject to change. For current information, visit the Court Interpreters Program website: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/courtinterpreters/>.

³ Certification exams will be available in Khmer and Punjabi by the summer of 2011.