

Preparing to Excel: Capacity Building for Professional Success



Training, Recruiting, and Credentialing Court Interpreters

Office on Equality and Access to the Courts, Hawai'i State Judiciary

Hawai'i State Judiciary Office on Equality and Access to the Courts

We oversee programs and projects that provide access to the courts for all

- Language access
- Disability accommodations



Learning Outcomes

- What is interpreting?
- Training interpreters
- Available Resources
- Practical tips for working effectively with interpreters

Federal Law
Title VI of the
Civil Rights Act of 1964



State Law
H.R.S. Chapter 321C

Language Access
It's THE LAW!

What is Interpreting?

What is the Interpreter's Job?



To render everything said in court
in the source language
into the target language.

**Court interpreting
requires more than just
being bilingual**

Interpreter Qualifications

- Interpretation is a skill acquired through extensive education, training, and experience
- Interpreters must be fluent in BOTH English and non-English language
- Interpreters must know vocabulary, special terminology, idioms, slang

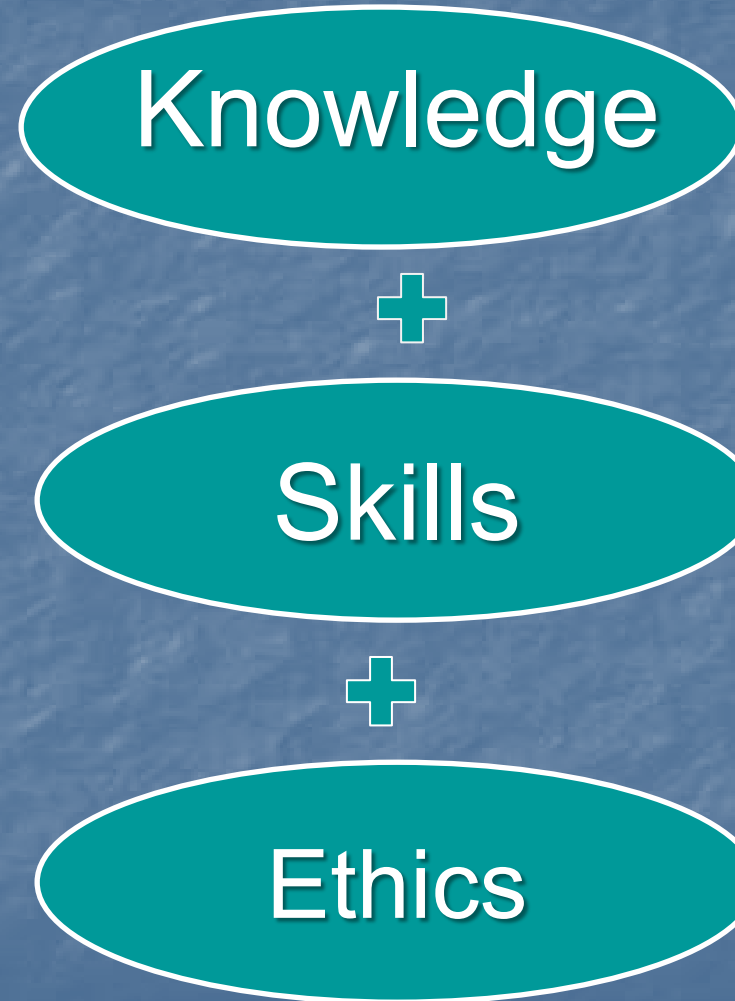
What Skills Should an Interpreter Have?

- ✓ **Speaks** both languages at **fluency** level of near-native or higher
- ✓ **Reads** and **writes** in both languages
- ✓ **Pronunciation** understandable in both languages

What Skills Should an Interpreter Have?

- ✓ Performs all **three modes** of interpreting
- ✓ Interprets different **registers**
- ✓ Duplicates **speed** and pacing of speakers
- ✓ Knows relevant **terminology**

Competent Interpreter



Training Interpreters

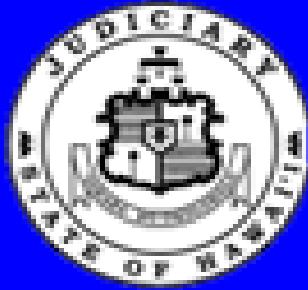
Three Modes of Interpretation

- Simultaneous interpretation
- Consecutive interpretation
- Sight translation

Court Interpreter Ethics

Ethical interpreters. . .

- Disclose potential conflicts of interest
- Maintain confidentiality
- Interpret meaning for meaning,
not word for word
- Do not discuss case with the LEP person
- Use first person speech



**Overview of the
Hawai'i State Judiciary
Court Interpreter
Certification Program**

Certification Program Requirements

- At least 18 years of age
- Authorized to work in the United States
- Read and agree to abide by the Hawai`i Code of Professional Conduct for court interpreters
- Certification Program Application Form
- Hawai`i General Excise Tax (“GET”) License

Mandatory Minimum Requirements

- Attend 2-day training
- Pass written exams
- Clear criminal background check

Training Requirement: Basic Orientation Workshop

- Introduction to interpreting
- Legal terms and court procedure
- Interpreter ethics
- Interpreter's role
- 3 modes of interpreting
- Practice resources
- Written & oral exams, assignment & payment

Testing Requirement: Written Exams

- Basic Ethics Exam
- Written English Proficiency Exam

Screening Requirement: Criminal Background Check

- State-based
- Evaluates fitness to serve

Optional Advancement: Oral Exams

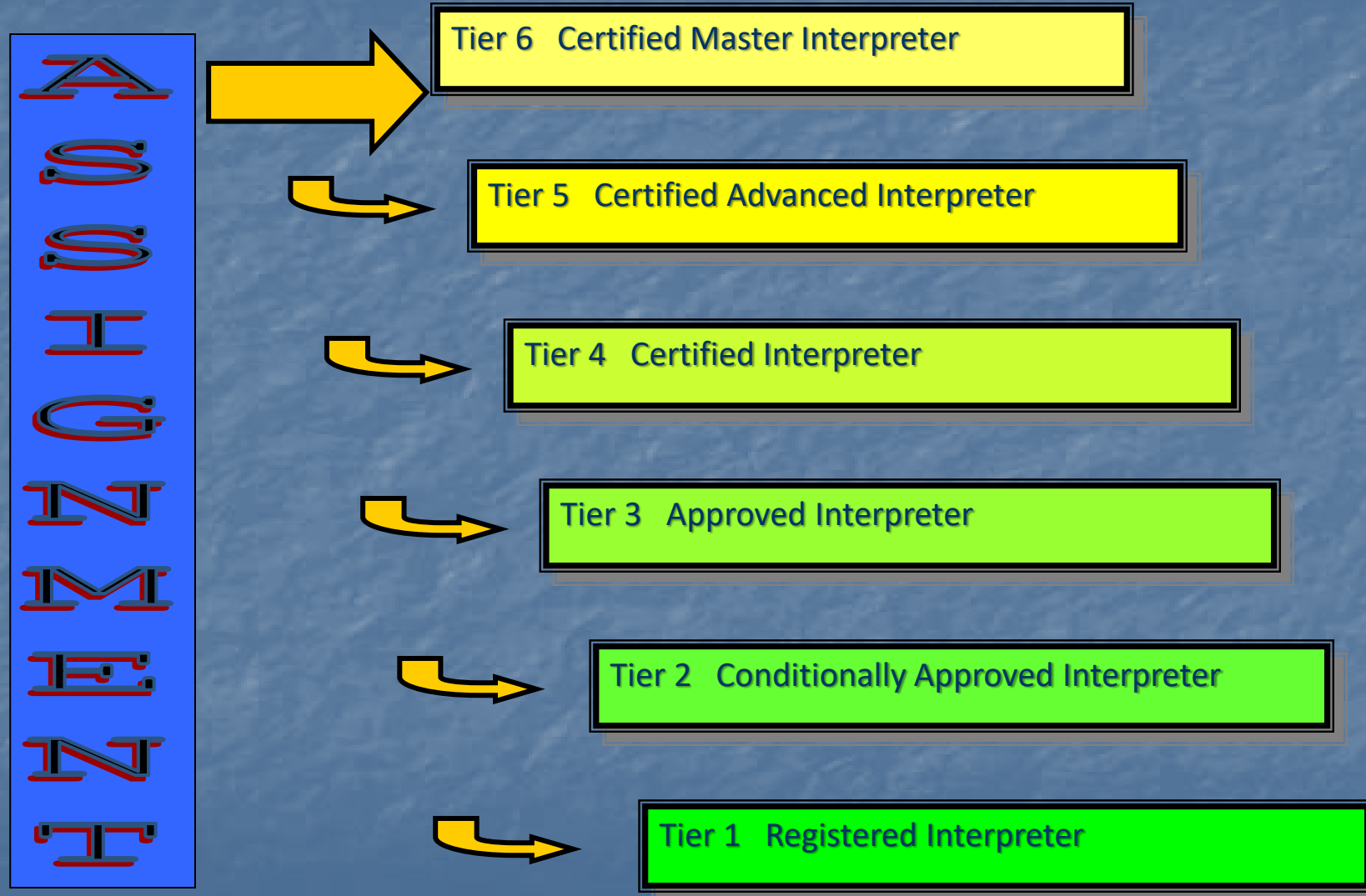
- Performance-based
- Tests interpreting skills in:
 - 1) English and
 - 2) non-English language
- Qualifies interpreters at higher tiers

Tiers of Designation

- Standards for interpreter performance
- Incentives for professional advancement
- Reciprocity and alternative credential recognition

<u>SPOKEN-LANGUAGE</u> <u>TIERS OF COURT INTERPRETER DESIGNATION</u>					
Tiers of Designation	Requirements for Tier Designation				Pay Rate
	Exam	Score			
TIER 6 CERTIFIED MASTER	Oral Exam	Simul	Cons	Sight	\$55/hr
	NCSC Certification	80%	80%	80%	
<small>with at least 75% for each Sight Translation subpart</small>					
TIER 4 CERTIFIED	NCSC Certification	70%	70%	70%	\$45/hr
	<small>with at least 65% for each Sight Translation subpart</small>				
TIER 3 APPROVED	NCSC Certification	60%	60%	60%	\$40/hr
	<small>with at least 55% for each Sight Translation subpart</small>				
TIER 2 CONDITIONALLY APPROVED	NCSC Abbreviated	70%	-	-	\$35/hr
	NCSC Abbreviated	60%	-	-	
OPTIONAL					
TIER 1 REGISTERED	Hawai'i Criminal Background Check	Cleared			\$25/hr
	NCSC Written English Proficiency Exam	70%			
	Hawai'i Basic Ethics Exam	80%			
	Hawai'i Basic Orientation Workshop	Completed			
MANDATORY FOR ALL TIER DESIGNATIONS					

Finding the Most Qualified Interpreters



Available Resources



Court Interpreter List

Listed by:

- Language
- Island
- Tier

THE JUDICIARY • STATE OF HAWAII
 COURT INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
 COURT INTERPRETER REGISTRY
External Distribution
 January 1, 2023

Court Interpreters who meet mandatory requirements for Interpreting in the state courts under the Hawaii State Judiciary Court Interpreter Certification Program are published on this Registry. Requesting parties are responsible for further determining the qualifications and competence of the Interpreters they hire.

If you have any questions about the Registry, please contact the Office on Equality and Access to the Courts at 808-539-4860.

* Please refer to the Hawaii Rules for Certification of Spoken and Sign Language Interpreters, Appendix A for the list of tiers and tier requirements.

LANGUAGE	ISLAND	TIER	NAME	CONTACT #
BENGALI	OAHU	1	ROUF, MOHAMMAD A.	808-479-0298(C), 808-949-1163(H), 808-833-5787(B), mohammad@jobeteckgroup.com
BULGARIAN	OAHU	1	IBISHEVA, ZHULIETA B.	808-636-3068(C), zibisheva@gmail.com
CANTONESE	OAHU	2	YING, MONICA T.	languagemajor@gmail.com
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	ZHU, JIAN YOU	startorater@yahoo.com
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	YUEN, PEARL P. J. C.	808-721-0533(C), ppcyuen@hotmail.com
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	WONG, WILLY	808-626-0237(H), wongwillywonka@aol.com
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	WONG, PATRICK T. C.	808-255-6188(C), patricktwong@yahoo.com
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	TANG, GIGI W. C.	
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	SO, GLORIA C. M.	808-228-6355(C), gloria.cm.so@gmail.com
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	SHIMABUKURO, LYNNETTE L. L.	808-230-0826(C), 808-732-6205(H), lynnstresures@gmail.com
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	ONG, KIM WAH	808-393-8489(C), okwah@yahoo.com
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	LIU, MIN	mlubnu06@gmail.com
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	LIANG, WEIPENG	808-485-7788(C), llangw6@hawaii.edu
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	LI, QIUXIA	
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	LAU, HELEN W. M.	lauhelen@hawaii.edu
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	KWOCK, MICHELLE M. W.	808-358-4092(C), michellek303@yahoo.com
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	KWAN, WENG SI	808-393-0493(C), emilyarbee@hotmail.com, emilyarbee@gmail.com
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	HERNANDEZ, KELLY-ANN Y. S.	808-230-0885(C), sa.sa@me.com
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	HERNANDEZ, ADAM J.	adamj.hernandez@gmail.com
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	CHOI, KIT YEE	808-429-2028(C), candychoi68@gmail.com
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	CHOI, JOHNSON	808-524-5738(B), jwkc8168@yahoo.com
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	CHIN, CYNTHIA Y. L.	808-367-8753(C)(B), cynthiac888@gmail.com
CANTONESE	OAHU	1	AU, NANETTE Y. B.	808-226-1328(C), 808-523-6468(B), nanette000@gmail.com
CANTONESE	HAWAII	1	ATWELL, ESTHER Y.	808-430-3577(C), contact@egtheadtranslation.com

* Interpreters are only available for remote assignments (via Zoom, WebEx or telephone).

Problems with Interpreter Performance

Beware of Red Flags



- Interpretation is shorter or longer than the statement being interpreted
- Interpreter is inaudible or too audible
- Interpreter looks confused
- LEP person looks confused

Beware of Red Flags



- Interpreter uses third-person speech
- Interpreter not interpreting
- Interpreter hesitates or stumbles

Manage Interpretation Effectively

Practice Pointers

- Verify that interpreter and LEP person can communicate
 - Interpreters should conduct preliminary interview with LEP person
- Explain interpreter's role

Practice Pointers

- Look at and speak directly to the LEP person, not to the interpreter
- Speak naturally, not too fast or too slow, clearly and distinctly
- State complete sentence without pauses
- Pay attention to sound, inflection, and tone of your voice

Practice Pointers

- Use plain English whenever possible
- Avoid slang, jargon, technical terms and acronyms
- Ensure only one person speaks at a time
- Monitor gestures and facial expressions

Practice Pointers

- Do not ask the interpreter to “explain” a form or document
- Do not expect word-for-word interpretation
- Do not ask interpreters to interact with LEP person in violation of their Code of Ethics
- Remember the Rule of Three:
3 people required for interpretation

Practice Pointers

- Ask LEP person to repeat key information to check for understanding

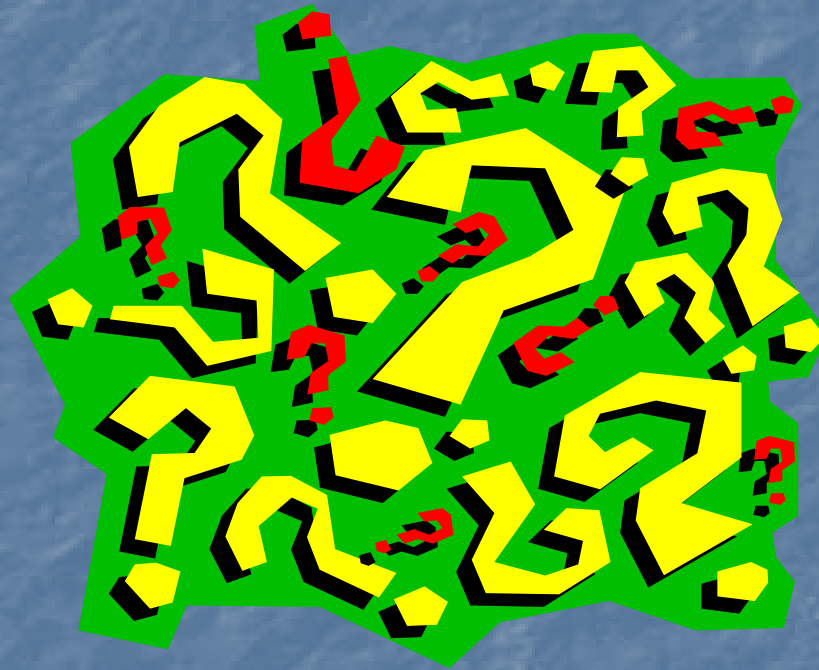
WRONG: “Do you understand?” (Y/N)

RIGHT: “Tell me what you need to do with your document, case, notice, etc.”

What we've covered

- ☑ What is interpreting
- ☑ Training interpreters
- ☑ Recruiting interpreters
- ☑ Practice pointers

Questions?



For more information

Office on Equality and
Access to the Courts

808-539-4860

oeac@courts.hawaii.gov

