



State of Rhode Island Judiciary

Access to Justice Office

National Center for State Courts Certification Exam Announcement

January 2024

In accordance with Rhode Island Supreme Court Executive Orders 2012-05 and 2009-05, the Rhode Island Judiciary (Judiciary) will host the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Court Interpreter Certification Examination in April of 2024.

Process: There are three (3) steps to become a certified court interpreter in Rhode Island: the candidate must pass the written examination, must pass the oral examination, and complete a one (1) day training session.

1. Written Examination

The written examination consists of 135 multiple-choice questions designed to evaluate a candidate's general vocabulary in English, knowledge of court-related terms and usage, and ethics and professional conduct. Candidates are allowed two (2) hours and fifteen (15) minutes to complete the multiple-choice section and must score a minimum of **80%**. Candidates will receive the written examination scores approximately three (3) weeks after taking the examination.

Candidates must register for the written examination by submitting the Court Interpreter Certification Registration for Written Examination form included in this announcement. The cost of the written examination is **\$150.00** payable at the time of registration **by money order** to the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

Candidates who fail the written examination must wait a period of six (6) months to be tested again. A passing score on the written examination is valid for three (3) years.

2. Oral examination

Only candidates who pass the written examination are eligible to register for the oral portion of the examination. Candidates must register for the oral examination by submitting the Court Interpreter Certification Registration for Oral Examination form included in this announcement once the candidate has passed the written portion of the certification process.

The cost of the Spanish oral examination is **\$350.00**. For languages other than Spanish, please contact the Access to Justice Office as fees will vary depending on the language. All fees must be paid at the time of registration by money order issued to the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

The oral examination consists of the following sections:

1. Sight translation, with two (2) subsections:
 - a) English into non-English language; and
 - b) Non-English language into English;
2. Consecutive interpretation; and
3. Simultaneous interpretation.

Candidates must achieve a minimum score of **70%** on each of the sections of the oral examination, including both subsections of the sight translation.

The oral examination is an audio recorded process. Audio recordings of each oral examination will be graded by raters from the NCSC and scored within four (4) to six (6) weeks.

Retesting and Carry Over Scores: Candidates who fail the oral examination shall be required to wait a period of six (6) months to be retested. The Judiciary allows candidates who have sat for the full examination to retake only the section(s) of the examination that they previously failed. To be eligible to carry over passing scores, candidates must sit for the entire examination on the first full attempt. Carry over scores are valid for eighteen (18) months from the examination date. If a candidate has not successfully passed all portions of the oral examination within the eighteen (18) month period, the candidate must retake the entire examination.

Reciprocity Considerations for Carry Over Scores: *Some states require a passing score on all three (3) portions of the oral examination in one-sitting and do not recognize carry over test scores. If you intend to seek reciprocity in another state, please check with the language access coordinator in the state in which you are seeking reciprocity to determine that state's requirements.*

3. Training Sessions

Candidates who have passed the written and oral portions of the examination must attend a one (1) day training session offered by the Judiciary to be included on the Judiciary's roster as a certified interpreter or qualified interpreter. Training sessions include an overview of the Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibilities for Court Interpreters, and the Judiciary's policies and procedures for court interpreters.

The one (1) day training session costs **\$100.00** and is payable by money order issued to the Rhode Island Supreme Court at the time of the training registration.

Those candidates who pass the written examination but who do not pass the oral examination may still meet the requirements for becoming a qualified interpreter for the Judiciary but may have limited assignments and will not be entitled to the same level pay as a certified interpreter.

Registration for the examinations will be open from January 26, 2024 to March 1, 2024.

Please complete the attached registration form for the exam that you wish to take and mail the completed form and your payment to:

Rhode Island Supreme Court
Access to Justice Office
222 Quaker Lane
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

The written examination will be administered on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

Oral examinations will be administered Monday through Friday between April 8 and April 18, 2024.

Candidates registering for the oral examination will be assigned an examination date and time upon registration.

All examinations are administered at the Noel Judicial Complex located at 222 Quaker Lane, Warwick, Rhode Island 02886.

Candidates will receive confirmation of registration, fee payment, and examination date and time via electronic mail. Spots are limited to fifty (50) examinees.

For more information regarding the content of the examinations, please visit www.ncsc.org and select the [Court Interpreter Resources](#) link. If you have questions you may contact the Access to Justice Office at (401) 615-2469.



State of Rhode Island Judiciary

Access to Justice Office

222 Quaker Lane

Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

Telephone: (401) 615-2469

Court Interpreter Certification Registration for Written Examination April 2024

First Name:	Middle Initial:	Last Name:
Date Of Birth:	Street Address (Include Apartment or Suite Number):	
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Telephone Number:	Email Address:	
Present Employer:		
Business Address:		
Prior History: Have you taken the written examination previously? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, indicate the state(s), date(s) of previous examination(s) and your score(s): 		
For internal use only		
Date of written examination: _____ Multiple choice score: _____	Date of oral examination: _____ Oral examination score: _____	Dates of training:
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified as of: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Qualified as of: _____	Language:	Date added to roster:
Notes:		



State of Rhode Island Judiciary

Access to Justice Office

222 Quaker Lane

Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

Telephone: (401) 615-2469

Court Interpreter Certification

Registration for Oral Examination

April 2024

First Name:	Middle Initial:	Last Name:
Date of Birth:	Street Address (Include Apartment or Suite Number):	
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Telephone Number:	Email Address:	
Present Employer:		
Business Address:		
Language for Examination: <input type="checkbox"/> Arabic <input type="checkbox"/> Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian <input type="checkbox"/> Cantonese <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> Haitian <input type="checkbox"/> Hmong <input type="checkbox"/> Khmer/Cambodian <input type="checkbox"/> Korean <input type="checkbox"/> Mandarin <input type="checkbox"/> Polish <input type="checkbox"/> Portuguese <input type="checkbox"/> Russian <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Tagalog/Filipino <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese		
Prior History: Have you taken the oral examination in the above language previously? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, indicate the state(s), date(s) of previous examination(s) noting the language and your score(s):		
For internal use only		
Date of written examination: _____ Multiple choice score: _____	Date of oral examination: _____ Oral examination score: _____	Dates of training:
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified as of: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Qualified as of: _____	Language:	Date added to roster:
Notes:		