



Open Forum Deaf Sign Language Interpreter Standards and Registration

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Overview of Open Forum

- Establishment of Interpreter Standards
- Proposed Louisiana Deaf Interpreter Standards
 - General community settings
 - PreK-12 educational settings
 - Court/legal settings
- Questions and answers

Establishment of New Standards for Sign Language Interpreters

Establishment of New Standards and Registration Requirements for Sign Language Interpreters

- Individuals seeking to provide sign language interpreting services in the state of Louisiana, whether in-person or via remote services, must apply for registration with the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf.
- A person who is not registered with Louisiana Commission for the Deaf cannot do any of the following:
 - Provide services as a sign language interpreter for people who are d/Deaf, DeafBlind, and/or hard of hearing in the state of Louisiana.
 - Use any title, abbreviation, words, letters, signs, or figures to indicate that the person holds Louisiana interpreter registration pursuant to the rule.
- The standards and registration rules do not apply to individuals providing sign language interpreting services on a voluntary basis receiving no compensation or in religious settings.

General Community and PreK-12 Settings

- Registration requirements for Deaf interpreters working in **general community, PreK-12 educational, and court settings:**
 - Expected Spring 2027
- Deaf Interpreters who created an account on the Louisiana Interpreter Registry after June 29, 2026 will be notified to complete their application
- For any questions or support during registration, contact LCDInterpreterRegistry@la.gov.

What is Included in the Standard Requirements?

- All Deaf interpreters working in the state of Louisiana must register with Louisiana Commission for the Deaf.
- Minimum standards for qualification include three categories:
 - Education standards
 - Knowledge standards
 - Performance standards
- Final requirements will be published on the [professional and occupational standards webpage](#) within the Division of Administration website and on [the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf website](#).

A blue-tinted photograph of a group of people seated at tables in a meeting room. Several individuals have their hands raised, suggesting an interactive session or a vote. The people are of various ages and are looking towards the front of the room.

Proposed Registration and Standard Requirements for Deaf Interpreters: *General Settings*

Generalist Registration

For Deaf interpreters providing services inclusive of all general settings

- Does not include legal/court and PreK-12 educational settings
- Does include health care, vocational settings, community events, or more.

Types of Generalist Registration for Deaf Interpreters

- **Generalist Registration:** For those who meet all the minimum qualification requirements
- **Provisional Generalist Registration:** For those who meet some qualifications, yet have not met all of the minimum qualification requirements
- **Temporary Practice Permit – Supervised Support:** For individuals practicing to gain experience in deaf interpreting under the direct supervision of a registered generalist interpreter

Generalist Requirements - Deaf Interpreters

Registration Type	Registered Generalist- Fully Registered
Education Requirements	*Included in certification
Performance Requirements	One of the following: • Valid Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI); or • Valid Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Intermediary III Certification
Knowledge Requirements	*Included in certification
Renewal Requirements	• Valid for five years • Proof of valid certification from RID or BEI

Provisional Generalist Requirements - Deaf Interpreters

Registration Type	Provisional Generalist *Applicants may be required to provide proof of deafness (Example: audiogram)
Education Requirements	High school diploma or equivalent, or higher
Performance Requirements	Must have one of the following: • 40 hours formal Deaf Interpreter training; OR • National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) Certificate in Deaf Interpreting; And Sign Language Proficiency Interview Superior level or higher

Provisional Generalist Requirements - Deaf Interpreters

Knowledge Requirements

Must have one of the following:

- Passed the Center for Assessment of Sign Language Interpreters Generalist Knowledge Exam (CASLI); or
- Completion of an Interpreter Training Program (ITP) or higher degree; or
- 100 approved Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)/Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) continuing education units/mentoring hours within the last five years

*Requires an annual maintenance plan of 20 continuing education units per year

Renewal Requirements

- Valid for three years – Non-Renewable
- May extend for one year, up to two times with submission of the following:
 - Letter explaining the reason for extension; and
 - Good standing with annual maintenance plan Completion of a minimum of one component of the certification exam; such as CASLI Generalist Knowledge Exam or BEI Test of English Proficiency Exam
 - Note: Passing is not required. Must provide proof of completing exam.

Generalist Deaf Interpreter Temporary Practice Permit – Supervised Support Requirements

Registration Type	Generalist Temporary Practice Permit - Supervised Support *Applicants may be required to provide proof of deafness (Example: audiogram) *Applicants will be required to team with a registered interpreter
Qualification Requirements	One of the following: • One year or more of full-time professional interpreting experience; or • Sign Language Proficiency Interpreter (SLPI) rating of advanced or higher within the last two years; or • Proof of completion of formal professional development such as: ○ Enrollment in sign language interpreter training program (ITP) or a formal mentorship program; or ○ Minimum of 20 hours approved CEUs from RID/BEI; or ○ Two letters of recommendation: ▪ One letter from a registered interpreter; or ▪ One letter from a sign language interpreting professional representative
Renewal Requirements	• Requires quarterly review of progress toward registration with a registered interpreter assigned by the Commission • Valid for one year from date of issuance • May be extended one time upon verification of continued enrollment in a higher education training or mentoring program for deaf interpreters

A blue-tinted photograph of a group of people seated at tables in a meeting room. Several individuals have their hands raised, suggesting an interactive session or a vote. The people are of various ages and are looking towards the front of the room.

Proposed Registration and Standard Requirements for Deaf Interpreters: *PreK-12 Settings*

PreK-12 Registration

- For Deaf interpreters providing interpreting services in PreK-12 educational settings

Types of Registration for PreK-12 Interpreters

- **PreK-12 Registration:** For Deaf interpreters who meet all the minimum qualifications standards
- **PreK-12 Provisional Registration:** For Deaf interpreters who hold some qualifications, but have not yet met all of the minimum requirements
- **Temporary Practice Permit – Supervised Support:** For individuals practicing to gain experience in deaf interpreting in PreK-12 education settings

Registered PreK-12 Requirements - Deaf Interpreters

Registration Type	Registered PreK-12
Education Requirements	One of the following: • Associates degree (or higher); or • Minimum of 60 semester hours of college credit
Performance Requirements	One of the following: • Valid certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI); or • Valid Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Intermediary III Certificate or higher
Knowledge Requirements	• Passed the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) Written Test
Renewal Requirements	• Valid for five years • Proof of valid certification from RID or BEI; and • 20 additional hours of RID/BEI approved CEUS specific to interpreting in education

Provisional PreK-12 Requirements - Deaf Interpreters

Registration Type	Provisional Generalist *Applicants may be required to provide proof of deafness Ex: audiogram
Education Requirements	• Completion or higher from an Interpreter Training Program (ITP); or • Minimum of 30 semester hours of college credit; or • Center for Assessment of Sign Language Interpreters (CASLI) Alternate Pathway = 30 hours
Performance Requirements	One of the following: • 40 hours formal Deaf Interpreter training; or • National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) Certificate of Deaf Interpreting; and • Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) Superior level or higher

Provisional PreK-12 Requirements - Deaf Interpreters

Knowledge Requirements

Not required. Registrants are expected to study for the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) Written Test

*Requires an annual maintenance plan of 20 continuing education units per year

Renewal Requirements

- Valid for three years – Non-Renewable
- May extend for one year, up to two times with submission of the following:
- Letter explaining the reason for extension; and
- Good standing with annual maintenance plan for a total 60 contact hours of approved Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or Board for Evaluation of Interpreters continuing education units issued within three years; and
- Proof of passed EIPA Written Test
- Completion of a minimum of one component of the certification exam; such as Center for Assessment of Sign Language Interpreters Generalist Knowledge Exam or Board for Evaluation of Interpreters Test of English Proficiency Exam
- Note: Completion is not contingent upon successful passing or receipt of verified results

PreK-12 Deaf Interpreter

Temporary Practice Permit – Supervised Support Requirements

Registration Type	PreK-12 Temporary Practice Permit- Supervised Support *Applicants may be required to provide proof of deafness (Example: audiogram) *Applicants will be required to team with a registered interpreter
Qualification Requirements	One of the following: • One year or more of full-time professional interpreting experience; or • SLPI rating of advanced or higher within the last two years; or • Proof of completion of formal professional development such as: ○ Enrollment in sign language ITP or a formal mentorship program; or ○ Minimum of 20 hours approved RID/BEI CEUs; or ○ Two letters of recommendation: ▪ One letter from a registered interpreter; or ▪ One letter from a sign language interpreting professional representative
Renewal Requirements	• Requires quarterly review of progress toward registration with a registered interpreter assigned by the Commission • Valid for one year from date of issuance • May be extended one time upon verification of continued enrollment in a higher education training or mentoring program for deaf interpreters



Proposed Registration and Standard Requirements for Deaf Interpreters: *Court and Legal Settings*

Court/Legal Registration

For Deaf interpreters providing services in legal proceedings, including courtrooms, law enforcement interactions, depositions, and attorney-client meetings.

Types of Registration for Court/Legal Settings for Deaf Interpreters

- **Court/Legal Registration:** For Deaf interpreters who meet the minimum qualification standards established by the Commission and the Louisiana Supreme Court Office of Language Access
- **Court/Legal Provisional Registration:** For Deaf interpreters who hold some qualifications, but have not yet met all of the minimum requirements established by the Commission and the Louisiana Supreme Court Office of Language Access

Administrative Requirements

- The following will be required by the Louisiana Supreme Court- Office of Language Access
 - Louisiana state background check conducted by the Louisiana Supreme Court Office of Language Access
 - Professional conduct form provided by the Louisiana Supreme Court Office of Language Access

Court/Legal Registration

Court/Legal Registration Requirements - Deaf Interpreters

Registration Type	LCD Court Registered (OLA Court Certified) *May work with registered or provisional hearing court registered interpreter
Education Requirements	*Included in certification
Performance Requirements	One of the following: • Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID); or • Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Court Interpreter; or • Verifiable proof of five years or more registration with Louisiana State Supreme Court Office of Language Access; Requires an additional minimum of 100 contact hours/10 RID/BEI court/legal related approved CEUs acquired during active registration status
Knowledge Requirements	• Pass the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Test; and
Renewal Requirements	• Valid for five years • Proof of valid certification from RID or BEI. For individuals without court specific certification, an additional 20 hours of court/legal related CEUs will be required

Court/Legal Registration Requirements- Deaf Interpreters

Breakdown of minimum 100 contact hours

Topics include but are not limited to:

- Minimum of 20 hours per category.
- Topics include but are not limited to:
 - Specialized Legal Sign Language Vocabulary
 - The Role of Sign Language Interpreter Court System/Legal Proceedings
 - Consecutive Interpreting Training
 - Sign Language Interpreter Ethics
 - Minimum of 10 hours must be Legal/Court ethic Interpreting
 - General Legal Knowledge- Topics include but are not limited to:
 - Law, Legal, Court Related knowledge (i.e law enforcements)

Court/Legal Provisional Registration

Provisional Court/Legal Registered Requirements - Deaf Interpreters

Performance Requirements

One of the following:

- Five years or more of valid Certified Deaf Interpreter certification such as Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID); Excludes Ed: K-12; or
- Five years or more of valid certification from the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) issued by a state that is a licensed user of the BEI system; Excludes BEI Basic; or
- Deaf interpreters without valid RID or BEI certification may submit:
 - 40 hours of formal Deaf Interpreter Training; or National Technical Institute for the Deaf Certificate of Deaf Interpreting; and
 - Proof of 5 years verifiable court/legal experience via a letter of attestation from a judge, attorney, court coordinator, law firm, or interpreter coordination agency.
- Proposed Revision: Proof of 5 years verifiable Deaf Interpreter experience via a letter of attestation from a registered interpreter, interpreter coordination agency, school district human resources department, judge, attorney, court coordinator, etc.

Provisional Court/Legal Registered Requirements - Deaf Interpreters

Knowledge Requirements

- Passed the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Test; and
- Passed the Center for Assessment of Sign Language Interpreters (CASLI) Generalist Knowledge Exam; or
- 100 RID/BEI contact hours/10 CEUs in the last five years; or
- Completion of Interpreter Training Program (ITP) or higher degree.
- *Requires an annual maintenance plan of 20 court-related continuing education units. A minimum of six hours must be in deaf interpreting and/or ethical practices of a deaf interpreter.

Renewal Requirements

- Valid for three years. May extend one time for two more years with proof of progress toward certification; and
- Annual maintenance plan in good standing for previous three years (total of 60 continuing education units)

Exceptions

- Requests for exceptions to any of the registration requirements due to extenuating circumstances, recognition of other credentials, or reciprocity from another state must be submitted in writing to the commission for review and may be eligible for approval on a case-by-case basis. Exceptions shall be determined through policies approved by the board of commissioners and the Louisiana Supreme Court Office of Language Access.

Questions?

Discussion

- Should these rules apply to interpreters working in court settings, or both court and legal settings?
 - Legal settings might include interviews, IEP meetings, child custody cases with child protection services, etc

Current Definitions to Consider

- **LCD definition:** Legal/Court Registration- For individuals providing interpreting services inclusive of settings that involve a legal matter, or any judicial proceeding under the government of the Louisiana Supreme Court
- **BEI definition:** Court Interpreter Certificate- allows an individual to interpret all proceedings of Texas courts, including county, municipal and justice courts. Other requirements may apply to federal court proceedings. A court proceeding can be civil, criminal or juvenile and includes arraignments, mediations, court-mandated arbitrations, depositions and other forms of alternative dispute resolution.
- **RID SC:L definition:** Holders of this specialist certification demonstrated specialized knowledge of legal settings and greater familiarity with language used in the legal system. These individuals are recommended for a broad range of assignments in the legal setting.

Discussion

- For Interpreters working in Court and Legal Settings?
- Or for Interpreters working only in Court Settings?

Thank You!



Stay Connected!



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