

Open Forum Court Sign Language Interpreter Standards and Registration

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Overview of Open Forum

- Establishment of Interpreter Standards
- Proposed Sign Language Interpreter Court/Legal Standards
- 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 interpreters working in **general community and PreK-12 educational settings**:
 - Standards are in effect as of May 20, 2026.
 - Registration opened on June 29, 2026.
 - Enforcement of registration begins January 1, 2027.
- Interpreters who created an account on the Louisiana Interpreter Registry prior to June 29, 2026 received several emails to provide the additional information needed to comply with the new standards and registration requirements.
- For any questions or support during registration, contact LCDInterpreterRegistry@la.gov.

Court/Legal Settings

- Registration requirements for interpreters working in **court/legal settings**:
 - Interpreters should maintain their registration with the Louisiana Supreme Court, Office of Language Access
 - Interpreters must register as a Generalist in the Louisiana Interpreter Registry.
 - Minimum standard requirements for court/legal settings, inclusive of Deaf Interpreters, are expected in the spring of 2027
 - Registration date TBD
 - Enforcement date TBD
- For any questions or support during registration, contact LCDInterpreterRegistry@la.gov.

What is Included in the Standard Requirements?

- All 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 can be found on the [professional and occupational standards webpage](#) within the Division of Administration website and on [the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf website](#).

Proposed Standards for Sign Language Interpreters Working in Court/Legal Settings

Court/Legal Registration

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

Types of Court Registration

- Registered Court/Legal (OLA Certified)
- Provisional Court/Legal (OLA Registered)

Types of Registration for Court/Legal Settings

- **Court/Legal Registration:** For sign language interpreters who meet the minimum qualification standards established by the Commission and the Louisiana Supreme Court Office of Language Access to work in court and legal settings. Considered “Certified” within the Courts.
- **Court/Legal Provisional Registration:** For sign language interpreters who hold some qualifications yet have not met all of the minimum requirements established by the Commission and the Louisiana Supreme Court Office of Language Access for working in court and legal settings. Considered “Registered” within the Courts

Proposed Standards for Sign Language Interpreters Working in Court/Legal Settings

*LCD Court Registered
(OLA Certified)*

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 Minimum Standard Requirements

Education and Performance Requirements

Only one of the following valid credentials is required:

- Valid court interpreter certification from the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) issued by a state that is a licensed user of the BEI system; or
- Valid court interpreter certification from a national certifying body of sign language interpreters, such as Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) **Note: this certification is no longer awarded by RID, however is fully recognized by RID** ; or
- Verifiable proof of five years or more registration with Louisiana State Supreme Court Office of Language Access; Requires an additional minimum of 75 contact hours/7.5 RID/BEI court/legal related approved CEUs acquired during active registration status.

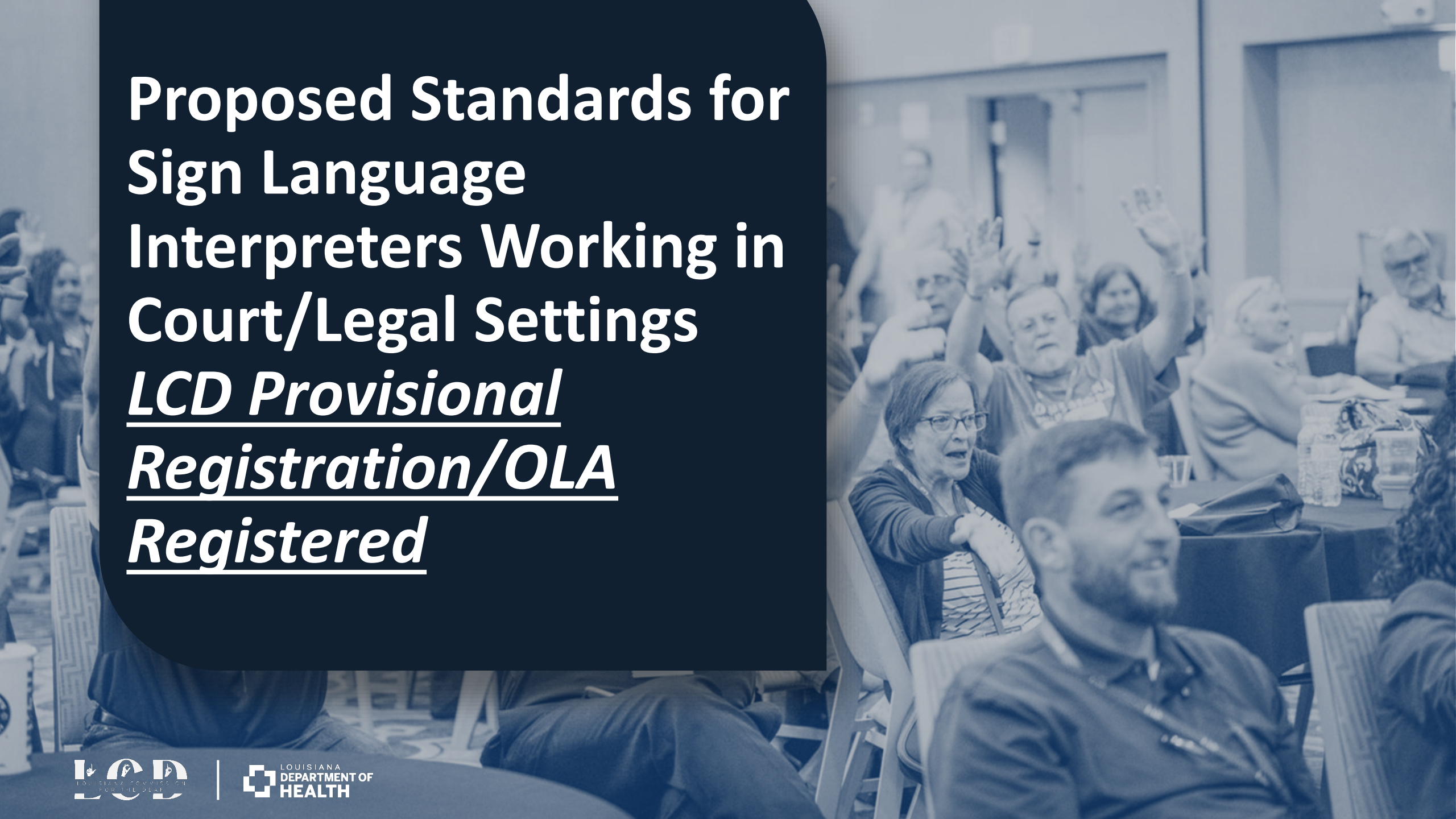
Court/Legal Registration Minimum Standard Requirements

Knowledge Requirements

Verification of passing the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) test

Court/Legal Registration Renewal

- Valid for five years
- Renewable based on valid professional certification; for those without specific court related certifications, an additional 26 hours/2.6 CEUs of court/legal and ethics-related topics will be required; and
- Renewed background check; and renewed professional conduct form through the Louisiana State Supreme Court Office of Language Access



Proposed Standards for Sign Language Interpreters Working in Court/Legal Settings LCD Provisional Registration/OLA Registered

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

Note for Provisional Registrants

- Louisiana State Supreme Court OLA registered court interpreters prior to (date TBD) who do not otherwise meet the standards for full registration with the Commission may register for provisional court registration upon verification of valid registration and good standing with the Office of Language Access.
- Deaf interpreters applying for provisional registration will be required to submit an audiogram showing a hearing loss of 60db or more in one or both ears. The audiogram does not need to be recent. The audiogram must contain the name of the applicant, the name of the audiologist/office that conducted the testing, and must show documentation of hearing status.

Court/Legal Provisional Registration Requirements

Education and Performance Requirements

Only one of the following valid credentials is required:

- Five years or more of valid certification recognized by a national certifying body of sign language interpreters, such as Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), excludes RID Ed: K-12; or
- Five years or more of valid certification from the Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Level III or higher; or Level III Intermediary or higher; or Advanced level or higher issued by a state that is a licensed user of the BEI system ; or
- 40 hours of formal Deaf Interpreter Training; or National Technical Institute for the Deaf Certificate of Deaf Interpreting (for Deaf Interpreters only). Deaf interpreters without valid RID or BEI certification must also submit:
 - 100 RID/BEI contact hours/10 CEUs in the last five years
 - 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.

Court/Legal Provisional Registration Requirements

Knowledge Requirements

All of the following are required:

- Verification of orientation and passing of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) test provided by the Louisiana State Supreme Court Office of Language Access.
- A minimum of 8 hours of real-time Louisiana court observation hours.
 - A minimum of 6 hours must be in-person observations
 - A minimum of 1 court interaction must include sign language interpretation
- A minimum of 35 contact hours/3.5 RID/BEI approved CEUs of professional legal/court sign language interpreter training

**See training topics breakdown

Court/Legal Provisional Registration Requirements

Knowledge Requirement Continuing Education Units

Breakdown of minimum 35 contact hours: Topics include but are not limited to:

- A minimum of 15 contact hours/1.2 continuing education units of professional legal/court sign language interpreting training (minimum of five hours per category)
 - Specialized Legal Sign Language Vocabulary
 - The Role of Sign Language Interpreter Court System/Legal Proceedings
 - Consecutive Interpreting Training
- A minimum of five (5) contact hours/0.5 continuing education units of Sign Language Interpreter Ethics
 - Minimum of three (3) hours must be court/legal specific
- A minimum of 15 hours of general court/legal training and knowledge. Topics include but are not limited to:
 - Law, legal, and court-related knowledge (i.e law enforcements)

Court/Legal Provisional Registration Renewal

- For sign language interpreters- non renewable
- For Deaf Interpreters- Valid for five years from date of issuance. May extend one time for two more years with:
 - proof of progress toward certification; and
 - proof of professional development via a minimum of 20 contact hours/2.0 RID/BEI approved CEUs of professional legal/court sign language interpreter training
 - Renewed background check; and renewed professional conduct form through the Louisiana State Supreme Court Office of Language Access

Questions?

Thank You!



Stay Connected!



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