



Open Forum Sign Language Interpreter Standards and Registration

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June 24, 2026

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
- 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.

Establishment of New Standards and Registration Requirements for Sign Language Interpreters

- The registration requirements for interpreters working in general community and PreK-12 educational settings are in effect as of May 20, 2026.
- The Louisiana Interpreter Registry is being updated to allow registrants to submit all of the information needed to comply with the new standards and registration requirements. These updates will create an easy online experience. Registration will open by July 1, 2026.
- Interpreters who already have already signed up on the Louisiana Interpreter Registry will receive an email 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.

Establishment of New Standards and Registration Requirements for Sign Language Interpreters

- Interpreters working in court/legal settings should maintain their registration with the Louisiana Supreme Court, Office of Language Access, and register as a Generalist in the Louisiana Interpreter Registry.
- Deaf interpreters should create a profile in the Louisiana Interpreter Registry.
- Full registration requirements for court/legal settings and Deaf Interpreters are expected in the fall of 2026
- 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 are published on the [professional and occupational standards webpage](#) within the Division of Administration website and on [the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf website](#).

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

Generalist Registration

For Deaf interpreters providing services inclusive of all general settings, with the exception of legal/court and PreK-12 educational settings, which have other specific requirements. General settings may include health care, vocational settings, community events, or more.

Types of Generalist Registration

- Registered Generalist
- Provisional Generalist
- Temporary Practice Permit - Supervised Support

Types of Generalist Registration for Deaf Interpreters

- **Generalist Registration:** For Deaf interpreters who meet the minimum qualification standards established by the Commission to work in general and community settings
- **Provisional Generalist Registration:** For Deaf interpreters who hold some qualifications, yet have not met all of the minimum requirements established by the Commission for working in general and community settings
- **Temporary Practice Permit – Supervised Support:** For individuals practicing to gain experience in deaf interpreting in community settings under the direct supervision of a registered generalist interpreter

Generalist Requirements - Deaf Interpreters

Registration Type	Registered Generalist
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 Certification
Knowledge Requirements	*Included in certification
Renewal Requirements	• Valid for five years • Proof of valid certification from Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or Board for Evaluation of Interpreters

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 must provide the following: • 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; or
- Completion of an Interpreter Training Program or higher degree; or
- 100 approved Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf /Board for Evaluation of Interpreters 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 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
 - 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 does not mean successful passing is 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 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 or a formal mentorship program; or ○ Minimum of 20 hours approved Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or Board for Evaluation of Interpreters continuing education units; 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 pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade educational settings. This typically includes employment directly through the school district or as an independent contractor, providing communication access to secondary students who are d/Deaf, Deafblind, or hard of hearing, under the purview of the Louisiana Department of Education

PreK-12 Registration

Types of PreK-12 Registration

- Registered PreK-12
- Provisional PreK-12
- Temporary Practice Permit - Supervised Support

Types of Registration for PreK-12 Interpreters

- **PreK-12 Registration:** For Deaf interpreters who meet the minimum qualification standards established by the Commission to work in educational settings
- **PreK-12 Provisional Registration:** For Deaf interpreters who hold some qualifications, but have not yet met all of the minimum requirements established by the Commission for working in educational settings
- **Temporary Practice Permit – Supervised Support:** For individuals practicing to gain experience in deaf interpreting in PreK-12 education settings under the direct supervision of a registered generalist interpreter

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 Certificate or higher
Knowledge Requirements	• Passed the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment Written Test
Renewal Requirements	• Valid for five years • Proof of valid certification from Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or Board for Evaluation of Interpreters; and • 20 additional hours of Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and/or Board for Evaluation of Interpreters approved continuing education units 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; 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 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 • Sign Language Proficiency Interpreter 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 or a formal mentorship program; or ○ Minimum of 20 hours approved Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or Board for Evaluation of Interpreters continuing education units; 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 Court Registration

- Registered court/legal
- Provisional court/legal

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 to work in court and legal settings.
- **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 for working in court and legal settings.

Administrative Requirements

- 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
- Provisional Legal/Court registrants may be required to provide proof of hearing status

Court/Legal Registration Requirements - Deaf Interpreters

Registration Type	Court/Legal Registered Deaf Interpreter *Requires Background Check and Professional Conduct Form provided by the Louisiana Supreme Court Office of Language Access *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) Intermediary Certificate
Knowledge Requirements	• Pass the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Test; and • Proof of five years or more of legal/court work experience via a letter of attestation; and • 100 hours of court/legal training obtained in previous five years **See training breakdown next slide
Renewal Requirements	• Valid for five years • Proof of valid certification from Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or Board for Evaluation of Interpreters

Court/Legal Registered Training Topics

Registration Type

Deaf Interpreters: Court/Legal Registered

Knowledge Requirement Court/Legal Training Topics

- Provide a minimum of 100 contact hours/10 continuing education units of professional legal/court sign language interpreting obtained in the last five years
- A minimum of 20 hours per category is required
- 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 ethics interpreting
 - General Legal Knowledge - Topics include, but are not limited to:
 - Law, legal, and court-related knowledge (i.e law enforcements)

Provisional Court/Legal Registered Requirements - Deaf Interpreters

Registration Type	Provisional Court/Legal Registered *Requires Background Check and Professional Conduct Form provided by the Louisiana Supreme Court Office of Language Access *Deaf Interpreters with Provisional Court registration shall not work with a hearing interpreter who also has provisional court registration
Education Requirements	Included in Certification
Performance Requirements	One of the following: • 40 hours formal Deaf Interpreter Training; or • National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) Certificate in Deaf Interpreting; and • American Sign Language Teacher Association (ASLTA) certification or Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) Superior or higher

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
- Completion of Interpreter Training Program (ITP) or higher degree; or
- Earned 100 approved Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)/Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Continuing Education Units (CEUs)/mentoring hours within the last five years.
- *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)

Questions?

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
- Provisional Court/Legal

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.
- **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.

Administrative Requirements

- 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

Education and Performance Requirements

Only one of the following valid credentials is required:

- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L)
- Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Court Certification
- Louisiana Supreme Court Registered post five years
- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Advanced certification post five years
- Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Master certification post five years
- Louisiana Commission for the Deaf Court/Legal Provisional Registration post five years

Knowledge Requirements

Knowledge requirements vary based on performance credential:

- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L)
 - National Center for State Courts (NCSC) test
- Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Court Certification
 - No further knowledge required - National Center for State Courts test included in certification

Knowledge Requirements

- **Louisiana Supreme Court Office of Language Access (OLA) Registered Interpreter**
 - Proof of Office of Language Access registration for five years or more
 - A minimum of 100 contact hours/10 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) of Professional Legal/Court Sign Language Interpreting Training (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 ethics interpreting
 - General Legal Knowledge - Topics include but are not limited to:
 - Law, legal, and court-related knowledge (i.e law enforcements)

Knowledge Requirements

- **Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Advanced certification; Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Master certification**
 - Proof of five years or more Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) or Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) certified
 - Proof of five years of verifiable court/legal experience via a letter of attestation from a judge, attorney, court coordinator, law firm, or interpreter coordination agency
 - National Center for State Courts Test (NCSC)

Knowledge Requirements

- 15 hours of Court Interpreter Orientation Training provided by the Louisiana Supreme Court Office of Language Access
- A minimum of 75 contact hours/7.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) of Professional Legal/Court Sign Language Interpreting Training (minimum of 15 hours per category)
 - See training topics next slide

Knowledge Requirements

- A minimum of 75 contact hours/7.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) of professional legal/court sign language interpreting training (minimum of 15 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 7.5 hours must be legal/court ethics interpreting
 - General Legal Knowledge - Topics include, but are not limited to:
 - Law, legal, and court-related knowledge (i.e law enforcements)

Knowledge Requirements

- **Louisiana Commission for the Deaf (LCD) Court/Legal Provisional Registration**
 - Proof of five years post Louisiana Commission for the Deaf Court/Legal Provisional Registration
 - A minimum of 100 contact hours/10 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) of Professional Legal/Court Sign Language Interpreting Training (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

Knowledge Requirements

- Sign Language Interpreter Ethics
 - Minimum of 10 hours must be legal/court ethics interpreting
- General Legal Knowledge - Topics include but are not limited to:
 - Law, legal, and court-related knowledge (i.e law enforcements)

Knowledge Requirements

- A minimum of 75 contact hours/7.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) of Professional Legal/Court Sign Language Interpreting Training (minimum of 15 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 ethics interpreting
 - General Legal Knowledge - Topics include but are not limited to:
 - Law, legal, and court-related knowledge (i.e law enforcements)

Renewal

- Valid for five years
- Renewable based on valid certification, and
- Renewed background check; and
- Renewed professional conduct form
- For those without specific court related certifications, an additional 25 hours of court-related continuing education units will be required

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

Court/Legal Provisional Registration Requirements

Administrative Requirements

- 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

Education and Performance Requirements

Only one of the following valid credentials is required:

- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Certification
- (excludes Educational: Kindergarten-Twelve (ED:K-12))
- Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Advanced Certification or higher
- Louisiana Supreme Court registered as of July 1, 2027

Court/Legal Provisional Registration Requirements

Knowledge Requirements

All of the following are required:

- National Center for State Courts Test (NCSC)
- 15 hours of Court Interpreter Orientation Training provided by the Louisiana Supreme Court Office of Language Access
- A minimum of 8 hours of real-time, virtual and/or in-person Louisiana court observation hours. (A combination of Louisiana and out-of-state/federal hours may be approved with extenuating circumstances)
- A minimum of 1 court interaction must include sign language interpreting
- A minimum of 6 hours must be in-person observations
- A minimum of 35 contact hours/3.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) of Professional Legal/Court Sign Language Interpreting Training.
- See training topics next slide

Court/Legal Provisional Registration Requirements

Knowledge Requirements

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 contact hours/0.5 continuing education units of Sign Language Interpreter Ethics
- Three 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)

Renewal Requirements

- Non-renewable
- May apply for full registration upon completion of five years provisional registration

Registration and Renewal Fees

Registration Renewal Process

- During the initial registration you may register for multiple settings for a flat rate of \$10.00
 - To upgrade your registration from provisional to registered, or to apply for an additional setting(s) after the initial registration, you will be required to pay a \$5.00 upgrade/additional fee.
- Renewal fee is \$10.00
- Renewal times depend on type of registration, with some being non-renewable
- Sign into the Louisiana Interpreter Registry any time to upload continuing education units and supporting documentation – click “save” after each update
- At the time of renewal, ensure all required renewal documents are submitted before completing the process
- Late renewal fee is \$20.00

Questions?

Thank You!



Stay Connected!



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