



## Commission on Interpreters Supreme Court of Georgia

### Policies on Testing

#### ***WRITTEN EXAM.***

All candidates seeking an interpreting license in the State of Georgia must take and pass the National Center for State Courts/Council on Language Access Coordinators written exam with a minimum score of 80% (read: [Requirements for Licensure as a Court Interpreter in the State of Georgia](#).) This exam is multiple-choice and includes sections on ethics, legal process, terminology, English grammar, idioms, synonyms, and antonyms. Interpreters must be well versed in the English language and must score 80% or higher to pass the exam. All persons registered to take the written exam must complete the orientation training session must be before taking the Court Interpreter Written Exam. The cost of the English written exam is \$50. You can take this test as many times during a calendar year as you want. Please note that the Commission on Interpreters' staff cannot give you a breakdown of your score.

#### ***ORAL EXAM.***

All candidates seeking an interpreting license in the State of Georgia must take and pass the National Center for State Courts/Council on Language Access Coordinators oral exam following the Requirements for Licensure as a Court Interpreter in the state of Georgia (see hyperlinked document above.) It is essential to note the following:

**Certified Interpreters:** If you score a grade sufficient to become a certified interpreter (you must score a minimum average no lower than 70%), you do not need to retake the oral exam, you hold your certified status permanently unless the Commission on Interpreters orders you to restart the licensing process.

**Conditionally Approved Interpreters:** All Conditionally Approved Interpreters MUST become permanently licensed with a designation of "certified interpreter" within two years from becoming a conditionally approved interpreter in the State of Georgia. Conditionally Approved Interpreters are those who score below 70%, with no portion of the test (sight translation, consecutive and simultaneous) falling below 55%. You are allowed to receive a one-year extension if you prove to the Commission that you participated in skill-building courses to prepare you for the oral exam. Failure to do so will cause the suspension of your license until you take and pass the oral exam with a score that will grant you a certified license.

**Registered Interpreters:** The Oral Proficiency Interview is only required if you wish to interpret in a language that does not have a certification exam. The OPI is a telephone



interview, which generally takes place at the Administrative Office of the Courts. The interviews are conducted through a vendor and last approximately 25 minutes. Each candidate will be tested in both English and the language you wish to interpret. The exam is designed to evaluate the candidate's foreign language ability, level of knowledge, and education. Candidates must achieve a language scale score of "Superior" in both English and the language for which one wants to interpret (target language). PLEASE NOTE: If the National Center for State Courts/Council of Language Access Coordinators creates an oral exam in your language, you **MUST** take the national certification within one year of being notified of the creation of the said test.

### ***FEES FOR ORAL EXAMS.***

**For the NCSC/CLAC Oral Exam:** Please note that the cost for the NCSC/CLAC oral exam is \$ 250 payable to the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts. You must pay this fee before you register for the exam. Please visit your [GCR](#) account to make the necessary payment. If you do NOT pass the NCSC/CLAC oral exam, the Commission on Interpreters will increase, and the candidate to become a licensed interpreter will have to pay the full cost of the rating, which will vary by language. Please notify Commission staff before registering for the test for an estimate on the price. NCSC/CLAC only allows candidates to take the oral exam twice per annum, either in Georgia or in any other states that offer the examination.

**For the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI):** The cost of each OPI is \$143. Before registering and paying for the OPIs, please contact the Commission office to determine if you required to take this exam. Confirmed candidates will be notified of the date and exact location of the exam. Please keep in mind that Language Testing International conducts exams for various agencies, and they have no information as to the purpose of or eligibility of those applying to test.

### **\*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL CANDIDATES\*\*\***

If you do not complete the licensing process within two years of your scheduled orientation, you must retake and pass the English written exam to remain active in our system. Applicants may request an extension of time by completing an approved skill-builder and submitting a request to the staff of the Commission on Interpreters.