

Maryland Court Interpreter Program

- The Maryland Judiciary offers certification exams in 14 languages twice annually: Arabic, Amharic, Bosnian-Serbian-Croatian (BSC), Cantonese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Vietnamese. Currently, certified court interpreters are available in 12 of these languages.
- A total of 465 interpreters are listed in the Court Interpreter Registry, representing 72 languages. The Court Interpreter Public List is accessible to both the general public and private users of interpreter services.
- All Registry interpreters are required to complete 16 hours of continuing education (CE) every two years, including at least three hours focused on Court Interpreter Ethics.
- Spanish remains the most requested language in Maryland courts, with 34 Spanish interpreters on staff across Circuit and District Courts. Other frequently requested languages include French, Korean, Russian, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Vietnamese.
- To support language access, over 200 court forms have been translated into Spanish, Chinese, French, Korean, and Russian. These forms are available on the Maryland Judiciary's multilingual portals, which also include other key information for non-English speakers.
- The Court Language Services section of the Maryland Judiciary website has been updated to include information on: 1) Language services for the public; 2) Resources for individuals interested in becoming court interpreters; 3) A Language Access Toolkit for court use
- On-demand video remote interpretation (VRI) in American Sign Language (ASL) is now available in many courthouses to assist deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals.
- Training and certification activities are conducted twice yearly and include one-day introductory webinars, written examinations, language proficiency interviews, orientation workshops, and certification exams. In addition, specialty workshops are offered to Registry interpreters, covering topics such as DNA and forensics, crime scene investigation, domestic violence, weapons and drugs, Latino gangs, voice and speech training, and court interpreter ethics.
- In 2023, the Court Interpreter Program launched a pilot bilingual employee program in Montgomery County, providing courts the opportunity to establish qualified bilingual positions in Spanish for existing bilingual, public-facing employees. The initiative aims to enhance language access and service delivery within the courts. Plans are currently underway to expand the program to additional counties.