

Maryland Court Interpreter Program

- Certification exams in 14 languages are scheduled twice a year in the following languages: Arabic, BSC (Bosnian-Serbian-Croatian), Cantonese, French, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Somali, Turkish, and Vietnamese. Certified court interpreters in 11 languages.
- 60 languages listed on the Court Interpreter Registry for a total of 460 interpreters. There are 240 eligible interpreters and 220 certified interpreters (including 78 ASL interpreters.) The Court Interpreter Release List containing interpreter names is available for state agencies, hospitals, schools, and law firms. Effective January 1, 2016 all listed interpreters are required to meet continuing education (CE) requirements by accumulating 16 hours of CE every two years.
- Largest language need in the courts is for Spanish. Maryland Judiciary has 21 Spanish interpreters on staff in the Circuit and District Courts. Lesser languages requests are for French, Korean, Russian, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Vietnamese.
- Translations of 110 District and Circuit court forms have been completed in Spanish. Translations of 41 court forms have been completed in Russian and French. On-going forms translation continues in Chinese and Korean. Foreign language portals were created on the Maryland Judiciary website where the translated forms and additional information can be found.
- In addition, brochures and posters have been translated for display in court facilities. The Court Language Services page of the Maryland Judiciary website was also translated into five languages.
- Video-remote American Sign language interpretation services for hard-of-hearing customers are now available in many courthouses. The Court Interpreter program staff distributed 30 laptops and provided extensive training to court personnel on how to use video-remote ASL services.
- One-Day Introductory Workshops, Court Interpreter Written Examinations, Language Proficiency Interviews, Two-Day Orientation Workshops, and Certification Examinations are conducted twice yearly. In addition, specialty workshops are scheduled on an on-going basis, including: DNA and Forensics, Crime Scene Investigation, Domestic Violence, Weapons, Drugs and Illegal Substances, Latino Gangs, Voice and Speech Training, and Court Interpreter Ethics.