

# Becoming a Certified Court Interpreter



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# How Do I Become a Court Interpreter

- ▶ Cassandra Sanchez would like to become a Spanish language court interpreter
  - ▶ Week one, July 24, 2017: Cassandra researches information on the Court Interpreter page of the Florida Courts Website <http://www.flcourts.org/resources-and-services/court-services/court-interpreting/>
  - ▶ She finds a whole page with links devoted to prospective court interpreters <http://www.flcourts.org/resources-and-services/court-services/court-interpreting/prospective-court-interpreters.shtml>
    - ▶ Orientation Workshop: two days, \$150 plus travel and lodging. Five to 6 workshops per year (October 30 - 31, 2017)  
<http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/536/urlt/Orientation-Workshop-Schedule-FY-2017-2018.pdf> <http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/536/urlt/Orientation-Workshop-Registration-Form.pdf>
    - ▶ Computer-based Written Examination: flexible date, time and location at over 40 proctored test sites at a cost of \$105, and results are available within 24 hours  
<http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/536/urlt/WRITTEN-EXAMINATION.pdf>

# Orientation

- Cassandra registers for Orientation Workshop in October 2017, and reviews all materials posted on the website. <http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/536/urlt/Orientation-Workshop-Schedule-FY-2017-2018.pdf>
- The cost to Cassandra is \$150 plus travel, meals, and hotel for 2 nights, for a total cost of less than \$500.00.
- Cassandra is very excited about the opportunity and eagerly registers for the Computer-based Written Examination for a test date in November 2017. She is able to take the test at a proctored test site within an hour of her home at a cost of \$105 plus travel. In total, less than \$130.00. <http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/536/urlt/WRITTEN-EXAMINATION.pdf>
- Cassandra passed the Computer-based Written Examination with a minimum score of 80%, on Part I *and* Part II and is ready to move forward towards Court Interpreter Registration.

# Registration

- ▶ Cassandra reviews the Application for Court Interpreter Registration  
<http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/536/urlt/Registration-Application.pdf>
  - ▶ The application is very thorough
  - ▶ It requires completed attendance at the two-day Orientation Workshop
  - ▶ It requires a passing score on the written examination, which includes an ethics portion
  - ▶ It requires documented completion of 20 hours of courtroom observation  
<http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/536/urlt/Courtroom-Observation-Hours-Summary-of-Requirements.pdf> <http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/536/urlt/Courtroom-Observation-Hours-Reporting-Form.pdf>
  - ▶ It requires a fee of \$200.00
  - ▶ Once Cassandra's registration is completed and she is a Registered Court Interpreter, she plans how she is going to become certified.



# Path to Certification



- ▶ Cassandra contacts the Court Interpreter Certification and Regulation Program at the Office of the State Courts Administrator to obtain information about available court interpreter education and training programs.

<http://www.flcourts.org/resources-and-services/court-services/court-interpreting/certified-court-interpreters.stml>

- ▶ Cassandra reviews available free materials

[http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/284/urlt/candidate\\_info.pdf](http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/284/urlt/candidate_info.pdf)

- ▶ Cassandra registers for approved Continuing Interpreter Education courses designed to develop interpreting skills, and knows she will need 16 credits.

- ▶ Cassandra follows a rigorous training schedule and focuses on building her interpreter skills at least 2 hours a day, five days a week (November 2017 through January 2018) and registers for the Oral Performance Examination in January 2018

<http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/536/urlt/Oral-Exam-Schedule-FY-2017-2018.pdf>

# Path to Certification – Oral Performance Exam

- ▶ Cassandra pays the registration fee \$200, travel costs, hotel and meals all of which cost less than \$600.00. She understands that she must take the oral exam within the first year of her registration.  
<http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/284/urlt/OralExamRegistrationForm.pdf>  
[http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/284/urlt/oral\\_qualifications.pdf](http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/284/urlt/oral_qualifications.pdf)
- ▶ Cassandra understands that according to the Board Operating Procedures, she needs to achieve an average score of at least 60% with no part of the test scoring less than 55% to maintain her Registered Court Interpreter status. <http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/536/urlt/Board-Operating-Procedures-Maintenance-of-Registration-12-16-16.pdf>
- ▶ Cassandra takes the Oral Performance Examination in January 2018, however at that time, she suffers a bilateral ear infection and laryngitis. Her performance on the Oral Performance Examination averages 52% with the lowest score on any part of the test at a 45%. Cassandra sees her doctor immediately following the Oral Performance Examination where she is diagnosed with a bilateral ear infection and laryngitis. She sends a written request to the Court Interpreter Certification and Regulation Program with medical documentation, requesting consideration to be maintained as a Registered Court Interpreter. [http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/536/urlt/BOP-Discretionary-Administrative-Revocations-Under-Rule-14-200i-3-22-2017\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/536/urlt/BOP-Discretionary-Administrative-Revocations-Under-Rule-14-200i-3-22-2017_FINAL.pdf)
- ▶ The CICB approves the request.

# Path to Certification – Oral Performance Exam

- ▶ Cassandra immediately registers for the Oral Performance Examination in May 2018. Cost \$200.00 for registration and a total cost of less than \$600 including hotel and travel.
- ▶ Cassandra diligently prepares for the Oral Performance Examination and is healthy for the examination.
- ▶ Cassandra achieves an average score of 62% with no individual score below 55%.
- ▶ Cassandra immediately registers for the next Oral Performance Examination, which she passes with an average score over 70% and scoring over 70% on each section. Total cost of less than \$600 including test registration, hotel and travel.
- ▶ One year into her odyssey, upon achieving qualifying scores sufficient for certification, official state-level designation credentials are prepared by program staff.
- ▶ Cassandra's cost to certification without consideration of CIE and education/training courses was approximately \$2600.
- ▶ Cassandra eagerly continues to develop her skill level, completes her CIE requirements, law-related events or observations, and pays the \$200 renewal fee every two years.