

Are you a good candidate to work as a Court Interpreter?

Besides possessing strong language and analytical skills, the profession of court interpreting requires advance training and a commitment to continued learning throughout the years. Even with the appropriate skills and training, certain people might find it too difficult to comply with aspects of the interpreters' **Code of Professional Conduct**, or to cope with the work conditions interpreters experience in real life.

To guide you in your decision, answer the following questions to yourself honestly. If you find yourself responding mostly “no” you might want to do more research in the field before making a final decision. You should also:

- Carefully study the *Code of Professional Conduct for Court Interpreters of the Trial Court*.
- Visit the Web Site of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators www.najit.org and review their articles and general information.
- Observe interpreters at work in court.

Considerations for persons interested in becoming court interpreters:

	Yes	Maybe	No
Do I communicate fluently in English and in the other target language?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can I communicate at a very formal (academic; professional) level as well as at a more informal (using colloquialisms, street talk, etc.) level in both languages?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Am I committed to studying and expanding my vocabulary in both languages, including having good bilingual dictionaries at hand?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Am I committed to studying the language and contents of the American legal process, law enforcement, and any other areas I get assigned to interpret for?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will I be able to interact with interpreter colleagues effectively, sharing information and consulting for my own learning as well as theirs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will I be able to accept feedback, corrections and/or suggestions regarding the quality of my work from colleagues or other qualified individuals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do I have a good memory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do I have the ability to speak clearly and loudly in public settings if necessary?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does working in a highly conservative environment—I. e: roles, dress code-- make me feel uncomfortable?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does sitting in a courtroom, addressing a judge, or being around guards in uniform make me uncomfortable or intimidate me?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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| Does the idea of sitting or standing next to convicted criminals or criminal defendants in court make me feel uncomfortable or scared? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Would you object to interpreting in the lock-up area in court for defendants who are being held? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do I have any moral impediment regarding interpreting for someone charged or convicted of a heinous crime? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Can I think and act calmly during emotionally or intellectually stressful situations? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is it very difficult or even unacceptable for me to remain silent when I observe something that bothers me ethically or emotionally? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Would I be able to control the urge to advocate for people I feel have been wronged while I am serving officially as court interpreter? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Would it be possible for me to avoid the urge to respond when people seek my opinion on their matter? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Will I be able to maintain absolute impartiality so that I could assist, if necessary, the defense and the prosecuting attorneys in the same case? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Will I be able to set and honor boundaries while interpreting, explaining to all participants that I cannot add my own opinions or feelings into the process? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Can I refrain from judging people whose notions of family totally differ from mine? For instance, in terms of marriage, divorce, disciplining of children, etc.? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Am I good at managing my own finances, for instance, of keeping accurate records of my bills and expenses? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Would I have a problem with last-minute changes in my assignments from day to day? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |