



Mississippi House Bill 1217 - Court Interpreters Program

- (1)** The court shall appoint an interpreter in the following order of preference:
 - (a)** Certified court interpreter
 - (b)** Registered court interpreter
 - (c)** Non-credentialed interpreter

- (2)** A non-credentialed interpreter may be appointed if:
 - (a)** Neither a certified nor registered court interpreter is reasonably available; and
 - (b)** The court has evaluated the totality of the circumstances, including the gravity of the judicial proceeding and the potential penalty or consequence involved.

- (3)** If the court appoints a non-credentialed interpreter, the court must make the following findings on the record:
 - (a)** The proposed interpreter appears to have:
 - (i)** Adequate language skills, knowledge of interpreting techniques, and familiarity with interpreting in a court setting; and
 - (ii)** Read and understand, and agrees to abide by, the Mississippi Code of Ethics for Court Interpreters and the Mississippi Rules on Standards for Court Interpreters.

- (4)** A summary of the efforts made to obtain a certified or registered court interpreter, as well as a summary of the efforts to determine the capabilities of the proposed non-credentialed interpreter, must be made in open court and placed on the record.

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Relevant Terms and Definitions

Term	Definition
Certified court interpreter	An interpreter who successfully has met all requirements promulgated by the Administrative Office of Courts to be designated a registered court interpreter and has scored at least 70% on each of the three sections of an approved criterion-referenced oral performance examination.
Registered court interpreter	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attended an approved two-day, fourteen-hour ethics and skill building Workshop. 2. Passed an approved criterion-referenced written examination with a minimum overall score of 80%. 3. Submitted to a criminal background check. 4. Provided verification of legal right to work in the United States. 5. Executed the Interpreter Oath; and 6. Satisfied any additional requirements that the Administrative Office of Courts may establish in order to be listed as a registered court interpreter on the roster.
Non-credentialed interpreter	Has <u>not met</u> the requirements promulgated by the Administrative Office of Courts to be classified as a registered or certified court interpreter.