

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

FERNANDO GALINDO  
CLERK OF COURT

MARK S. DAVIS  
CHIEF JUDGE

March 21, 2024

IMPROVING ACCESS TO COURT INTERPRETERS – STATE CERTIFICATION ACCEPTED FOR  
PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED RATE (**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**)

Effective immediately, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts has made a change to the standard for qualifying interpreters that serve the federal judiciary. This change expands the judiciary's professionally qualified (PQ) category of interpreters (for languages other than Spanish) to include state-certified interpreters so that they may be paid a more competitive rate.

The Eastern District of Virginia may now offer the PQ rate of pay to interpreters of languages other than Spanish who pass oral, performance-based state court interpretation exams developed by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The NCSC's oral exams are administered yearly by state judiciaries for: Amharic, Arabic, Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian, Cantonese, Filipino (Tagalog), French, Haitian Creole, Hmong, Khmer, Korean, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Somali, Turkish, and Vietnamese.

To receive a PQ rate, interpreters must provide the Court's interpreter coordinators with documentation showing a passing score on an NCSC exam in one of the above languages. A copy of that documentation should be submitted to the Court Interpreting Program within the Court Services Office.

If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate divisional interpreter coordinator:

Alexandria:	Deisy Estevez, (703) 299-2101
Richmond:	Lisa Garrett, (804) 916-2237
Norfolk/Newport News:	Michelle Reese, (757) 222-7260