

Florida State Courts System Class Specification

Class Title: Court Interpreter

Class Code: 7515

[Pay Grade 21](#)

General Description

The essential function of the position within the organization is to interpret legal proceedings for non-English speaking or hearing impaired persons to ensure due process. The position is responsible for interpreting the spoken or written word from a source language to a target language, translating court evidence to a target language, testifying as an expert witness regarding accuracy of translated documents or tapes, and collecting statistical data. The position works under direct supervision according to set procedures.

Examples of Work Performed

(Note: The examples of work as listed in this class specification are not necessarily descriptive of any one position in the class. The omission of specific statements does not preclude management from assigning specific duties not listed herein if such duties are a logical assignment to the position.)

Listens to speakers' statements during regular court proceedings and prepares interpretations, or interprets statements simultaneously or consecutively into specified languages orally or by using hand signs.

Translates documents and recorded materials presented in court from a source language to a target language.

Provides interpreting services for court appointed psychological evaluations and competency evaluations.

Maintains message content, context and style as much as possible during interpreting process.

Testifies as expert witness regarding accuracy of documents translated for court proceedings.

Collects and inputs data for statistical purposes concerning the number and type of interpreting tasks performed.

Remains current in reference information resources, such as vocabulary in legal, medical and other areas, different cultural features or local and world events.

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Assists with miscellaneous tasks such as on-the-job training for interns as directed by supervisor.

Competencies

Data Responsibility:

Refers to information, knowledge, and conceptions obtained by observation, investigation, interpretation, visualization, and mental creation. Data are intangible and include numbers, words, symbols, ideas, concepts, and oral verbalizations.

Compiles, examines, or evaluates data or information and possibly recommends action based on results.

People Responsibility:

Refers to individuals who have contact with or are influenced by the position.

Provides assistance to people to achieve task completion; persuades or influences others in favor of a service, course of action, or point of view.

Assets Responsibility:

Refers to the responsibility for achieving economies or preventing loss within the organization.

Requires minimum responsibility for only small quantities of low cost items or supplies where opportunities for achieving economies or preventing loss are negligible.

Mathematical Requirements:

Deals with quantities, magnitudes, and forms and their relationships and attributes by the use of numbers and symbols.

Uses addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; may compute ratios, rates, and percents.

Communications Requirements:

Involves the ability to read, write, and speak.

Reads scientific and technical journals, abstracts, financial reports, and legal documents; writes complex translations; makes presentations to professional groups.

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Complexity of Work:

Addresses the analysis, initiative, ingenuity, creativity, and concentration required by the position and the presence of any unusual pressures.

Performs coordinating work involving guidelines and rules with constant problem solving; requires continuous, close attention for accurate results or frequent exposure to unusual pressure.

Impact of Decisions:

Refers to consequences such as damage to property, loss of data or property, exposure of the organization to legal liability, or injury or death to individuals.

Makes decisions with moderately serious impact - affects work unit and may affect other units or citizens.

Equipment Usage:

Refers to inanimate objects such as substances, materials, machines, tools, equipment, work aids, or products. A thing is tangible and has shape, form, and other physical characteristics.

Handles machines, tools, equipment, or work aids involving moderate latitude for judgment regarding attainment of standard or in selecting appropriate items, such as recording equipment, computer or telephone.

Safety of Others:

Refers to the responsibility for other people's safety, either inherent in the job or to assure the safety of the general public.

Requires some responsibility for safety of others and/or for occasional enforcement of the standards of public safety.

Education and Experience Guidelines

Education:

Refers to job specific training and education that is recommended for entry into the position. Additional relevant experience may substitute for the recommended educational level on a year-for-year basis.

Bachelor's degree in English, the source language, or a closely related field.

Experience:

Refers to the amount of related work experience that is recommended for entry into the position that would result in reasonable expectation that the person can perform the required tasks. Additional relevant education may substitute for the recommended experience on a year-for-year basis, excluding supervisory experience.

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Two years of court/legal related experience.

Licenses, Certifications, and Registrations Required:

Refers to professional, state, or federal licenses, certifications, or registrations required to enter the position.

Applicants who are selected as employee interpreters, but who are not certified at the time of court employment, shall become certified within one year of being employed in a court interpreting position. The one-year requirement may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis, if necessary, only in exceptional circumstances. See Fla. R. Court. Interp. 14.205(c).