

RECIPROCITY

IMPORTANT: Reciprocity is provided for inclusion in the New Jersey Judiciary Registry of Interpreting Resources (*Registry*) to persons credentialed elsewhere and who reside in or near enough to New Jersey to provide interpreting services to New Jersey's courts on a regular basis. Persons who reside a distance from New Jersey are generally ineligible for reciprocity.

How Does a Spoken Language Court Interpreter Credentialed Elsewhere Become Eligible to Work as an Interpreter in New Jersey?

The principle that guides New Jersey's policy on reciprocity is to treat persons from out of state the same way we would treat persons who went through New Jersey's court interpreter approval/registration process. New Jersey recognizes, and therefore accepts, the following as equivalent exams:

1. The Spanish certification exam administered by the [Administrative Office of the United States Courts](#) (Federal certification), and
2. The NCSC exams in numerous languages administered by members of the [Council of Language Access Coordinators](#) (CLAC) so long as the exam taken was a NCSC exam which was given **after** the state became a member of CLAC or is otherwise equivalent. New Jersey accepts the scores of tests administered in those jurisdictions and will view a person as being able to waive the New Jersey exam so long as the test scores equal or exceed the scores required for approval in New Jersey.

Exception: If a person starts the testing process in New Jersey, he/she must finish it in New Jersey, unless the person receives Federal certification. There is no reciprocity for CLAC exams subsequently taken. For example, if a person takes the oral exam in New Jersey and fails it, then subsequently becomes certified in another CLAC state, reciprocity is not provided. The person must be retested by *New Jersey* on those exam sections that were failed in New Jersey and pass them at New Jersey's standard in order to become approved to work in New Jersey.

Other Test Results: **New Jersey does not accept any other test results.** That includes certification in California (if certified prior to 2011), Massachusetts or New York, or certification by the [National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators \(NAJIT\)](#).

New Jersey Orientation Seminar: Once your written and oral exam scores have been verified by our office, your next step is to attend the one-day Orientation Seminar. Details of this seminar are available at <https://www2.njcourts.gov/public/assets/langSrvcs/semschd.pdf>. The requirement to complete the Orientation Seminar may be waived under a limited set of circumstances.

Working in New Jersey: When an individual becomes eligible to work as a court interpreter for the New Jersey Judiciary, he/she must **register with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the NJ Division of Revenue**. The AOC will send that person an invitation to register and provide the necessary forms to be completed.