

# Revisions to Guidelines for Approval of Certification Programs for Interpreters for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons

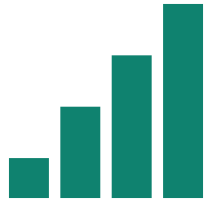
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Presentation to the Judicial Council  
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# Status of American Sign Language (ASL) Court Interpreting in California



ASL is the 4th most interpreted language in the California courts



Texas Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) only testing entity in United States for ASL court interpreters



Certified ASL Court Interpreters in CA: 43 (Prior to recognition of Texas BEI was 39)

## Why the ASL Court Interpreter Shortage Persists

- RID court certification ended in 2016 with no replacement
- Few certification pathways - only Texas BEI is temporarily recognized
- Testing is costly and hard to access - no statewide options
- Few new interpreters entering the court interpreting field
- Courts must rely on non-court certified interpreters due to shortages

ASL Interpreted Court Events  
FY 2020-24



# Revisions to Guidelines Address Barriers or Gaps



Evaluation panels had to include a judge or CA State Bar member



Approval required diverse testing locations across California




Certifying organizations had to regularly submit complicated documentation to council



Guidelines did not require test to cover common modes of interpretation in court

# New Simplified Application Process

Uses a yes/no format with supporting documents for verification



Strong Compliance Review - Language Access Services will ensure organizations recommended for approval meet new requirements before approval



Ongoing Oversight - Approved organizations must reapply every 4 years to maintain standing

# Future Planning – Expanding Interpreter Access

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Texas BEI remains an option if it continues to meet requirements

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Judicial Council can approve new certifying organizations as they emerge

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Language Access Services is exploring pathways to encourage non-court certified ASL interpreters to seek court interpreter certification

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Court Interpreters Advisory Panel is identifying new strategies to expand access to ASL interpreters

# Approval Request

- Approve the revised ASL Guidelines
- Approve the new application form

