1	CHAPTER 47
2	COURT INTERPRETER AND TRANSLATOR RULES
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4	Rule 47.4 Classification of oral language court interpreters.
5	47.4(1) Class A oral language court interpreter. A Class A oral language court interpreter is a
6	certified interpreter who has met the requirements in rule 47.6 to be on the Iowa roster of court
7	interpreters and has done one of the following:
8	a. Satisfied all certification requirements for an oral language interpreter established by the
9	Federal Court Interpreter Certification Program or the National Association of Judiciary
10	Interpreters and Translators.

- b. Taken oral interpretation examinations for court interpreter certification approved by the
- 12 Language Access Services Section of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and achieved
- a passing score of at least 70 percent correct on each of the three parts of the oral examination
- 14 (sight interpretation of written documents, consecutive interpretation, and simultaneous
- interpretation) in a single test session.

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- 47.4(2) Class B oral language court interpreter. A Class B oral language court interpreter is a noncertified interpreter who has met the requirements in rule 47.6 to be on the Iowa roster of court interpreters and has done one of the following by July 1, 2019:
- a. Taken one of the court interpreter certification examinations identified in rule 47.4(1)(b) and did not meet the test score requirements for certification, but achieved an average a score of at least 65 percent correct on each of the three parts of the oral interpretation examination in one test session.
  - b. Met the oral interpretation examination score requirements for court interpreter certification in a state that uses the oral interpretation examinations approved by the NCSC, but did not achieve scores of at least 70 percent correct on all each of the three parts of the oral examination in a single test session.
  - c. Completed a college level court interpreter training program approved by the director of the OPR with a grade point average of at least 3.0.
  - **47.4(3)** Class C oral language court interpreter. A Class C oral language court interpreter is a noncertified interpreter who has met the criteria under rule 47.6 to qualify for the Iowa roster of court interpreters, but has not met the criteria under rule 47.4(1) or (2) to be a Class A or B oral language court interpreter.
    - 47.4(4) Unclassified oral language court interpreter. An unclassified oral language interpreter

- has not met the requirements under rule 47.4(1), (2), or (3) to be a Class A, Class B, or Class C
- 2 oral language interpreter and has not met the requirements to be on an official list of qualified court
- 3 interpreters in another state.
- 4 **47.4(5)** *Oral language interpreters on a list of qualified interpreters approved by another state.*
- 5 a. Interpreters who have met the testing requirements for certification in rule 47.4(1)(a) or (b)
- 6 by taking those examinations in another state, will be classified as certified court interpreters and
- 7 receive the same hourly fee as Class A certified court interpreters in Iowa. These interpreters must
- 8 still meet the requirements in rule 47.6 to be on the Iowa roster of court interpreters, and certified
- 9 interpreters on the roster will receive preference for appointments over certified interpreters who
- are not on the roster.
- b. Interpreters who have met testing and training requirements to be included on a list of
- qualified court interpreters in another state, but who have not met the testing requirements in rule
- 47.4(1)(a) or (b), will be comparable to Class C interpreters in Iowa. These interpreters must still
- meet the requirements in rule 47.6 to be on the Iowa roster of court interpreters, and interpreters
- on the roster will receive preference in appointments over interpreters who are not on the roster.
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## Rule 47.6 Iowa roster of court interpreters.

- 18 47.6(1) Management. The director of the OPR will maintain and publish the Iowa roster of
- 19 court interpreters and may determine the order in which interpreters must complete the testing and
- training requirements in rule 47.4 to qualify for the roster. The OPR may remove an interpreter
- 21 from the roster or change an interpreter's classification on the roster if a roster interpreter takes or
- 22 retakes the oral language certification exam and achieves a score on one or more parts of the exam
- 23 that is less than the minimum scores required to be on the roster. The OPR may also require a
- 24 roster interpreter to retake the oral language interpreter certification exam if the OPR learns
- 25 <u>through an investigation that the interpreter failed to interpret at a level of competency comparable</u>
- to the minimum language proficiency qualifications for being on the roster in rule 47.6(2)(d).
- 27 **47.6(2)** Testing and training requirements. To Beginning July 1, 2019, to be included on the
- roster, an interpreter must meet the qualifications in rule 47.4 and the following requirements:
- 29 a. Ethics exam. All interpreters must take a written exam on the Code of Professional Conduct
- 30 for Court Interpreters and achieve a score of at least 75 percent correct, unless the interpreter has
- 31 taken the same or a similar exam in another state within the past five years and achieved a score
- of at least 75 percent correct.
- b. Written exam approved by the NCSC. Interpreters must achieve a score of at least 80 percent
- 34 correct on a written exam for court interpreters that the National Center for State Courts (NCSC)
- has approved and that includes at least the following areas: general English vocabulary, legal

- terminology, and legal procedures. This requirement may be waived by the director of the OPR if the interpreter has taken the same test in Iowa or another jurisdiction within the past five years,
- achieved a score of 80 percent correct, and has regularly provided court interpreter services each
- 4 year since taking the exam.

- c. Oral proficiency interview exam. Under the supervision of OPR staff or a designee of the OPR director, an oral language interpreter must complete an oral proficiency interview exam offered by ALTA Language Services in the interpreter's non-English language and achieve a score of at least 11 on a scale of 12. Interpreters classified as class A or B before July 1, 2015, are not required to take this exam. Interpreters not on the roster before July 1, 2015, must pass ALTA's oral proficiency interview exam to be listed on the roster.
- d.c. Court interpreter orientation program. An interpreter must complete the court interpreter orientation program approved by the director of the OPR. The director of the OPR may waive this requirement for an interpreter who has completed a similar training program in another jurisdiction within the past three years, and who has regularly provided court interpreter services each year since completing that program.
- *d. Oral language proficiency exam.* 
  - (1) An interpreter of a language for which one of the testing organizations identified in rule 47.4(1) offers a court interpreter certification exam must take one of the exams and achieve a score of at least 55 percent correct on each of the three parts of the exam (sight, consecutive, and simultaneous interpretation).
  - (2) An interpreter of a language for which the NCSC does not offer a court interpreter certification exam must take the ALTA Language Services oral proficiency interview (speaking and listening) exam in English and the interpreter's other language, under the supervision of a designee of the director of the OPR, and must achieve a score of at least 11 (on a scale of 12) on each exam.
    - **47.6**(3) *Retaking the court interpreter written and oral language proficiency exams.*
  - a. Written multiple-choice exams. An interpreter may retake a written multiple-choice exam once in a six-month period. When there are multiple versions of a written exam, the OPR will rotate the exam versions.
  - <u>b. Oral language certification exams the OPR conducts</u>. For oral language certification exams the OPR the conducts, an interpreter may retake the same version of an exam once in a 12-month period. When there are multiple versions of the oral language certification exam, an interpreter must wait six months before taking a different version of the exam.

c. Oral language certification exams the Federal Court Interpreter Certification Program
conducts. Interpreters taking oral language certification exams the Federal Court Interpreter
Certification Program conducts must comply with the rules established by the program regarding the retaking of the exams.
d. ALTA Language Services oral proficiency interview (speaking and listening) exam. An
interpreter may retake an ALTA Language Services oral proficiency exam only once in a sixmonth period.