

Legal Interpreting in BC

The following is intended to inform interested members how they can qualify and become involved in legal interpreting in BC.

Interpreting in civil, provincial, federal and supreme courts:

- **Step One: Application to the Office of the Attorney General**
 - Requirements:
 - Current member of both WAVLI and AVLIC
 - A copy of the applicant's certificate of interpretation (COI)
 - A current criminal records check (CRC)
 - The interpreter applicant's CV (This is subject to review by the procurement coordinator and additional documentation (legal experience/course work, reference letters) may be required)
- **Step Two: Notification**
 - The interpreter applicant will be notified of acceptance; if successful, the interpreter would hold a contract for the period of one year, after which the process would need to be gone through again.
- **Step Three: Working**
 - All legal work is accepted by the interpreter with caution and due consideration, following the Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Conduct.
 - In the event there are no interpreters who hold a COI available, possible actions of the court could include:
 - Postponement of the court matter
 - Securing an interpreter from another province.

Note: Court registries are not applying this agreement equally; corporate contractors such as Aquinas, Mosaic & WIDHH may be contacted to fill these assignments with whoever is available.

Interpreting for legal appointments for non-court/police related matters (e.g. ICBC, tribunals, medical legal claims, disciplinary meeting)

- The Deaf person requests the interpreter that s/he wants/prefers.

NOTE: The decision to accept a contract of this nature is a judgment call on the part of the interpreter and should be based on the interpreter's experience (or education) in legal matters. While the COI is not a requirement in all situations, in the interest of the Deaf accused/victim/witness, the legal system and the protection of the individual interpreter, it is strongly advised that interpreters hold a COI for legal work, or at the very least for court matters.