



State Committee of Interpreters

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September 2003

Governor

The Honorable Bob Holden

Department of Economic Development

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Division of Professional Registration

Marilyn Taylor Williams, Director

State Committee of Interpreters

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St. Charles, Missouri

Lisa Guillory, Hearing Public Member
Columbia, Missouri

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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This is an official publication of the Division of Professional Registration. Submit articles to: State Committee of Interpreters, P.O. Box 1335, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

State Committee of Interpreters Meeting Schedule

You will find listed below the schedule of upcoming Committee meetings.

October 17, 2003

Location: Tan-Tar-A Resort
Lake Ozark

Time: 1:00 PM

December 2003

Location: Division of Professional Registration
Jefferson City

Time: 10:00 AM

The public is invited to attend the open session of the meetings.



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Know Your Board Members



Loretto Durham
Chairperson
St. Charles, MO
Term Expires: 10/30/03
Comprehensive Level



Kimberly McEnulty
Member
Platt City, MO
Term Expires: 10/9/04
Comprehensive Level



Lisa Guillory
Hearing Public Member
Columbia, MO
Term Expires: 10/23/05



John T. Adams
Member
St. Louis, MO
Term Expires: 10/9/03
Comprehensive Level



Sandy Drummond
Member
Hallsville, MO
Term Expires: 11/5/04
Comprehensive Level



Carrie McCray
Member & Secretary
Mokane, MO
Term Expires: 10/9/05
Comprehensive Level



Message From the Division Director

It is no secret that the State is in a financial crisis. Governor Holden has worked diligently to see that essential state services are funded for children and our most vulnerable citizens. The good news, however, is that the Governor's budget included a pay increase of \$600 for all state workers making \$40,000 or less. This increase will be effective July 1. In addition, the Division of Professional Registration is fortunate to be funded through professional licensing fees that are deposited into dedicated funds. The Division, therefore, does not have to rely on general revenue funds for its operation. Our budget was approved as submitted in House Bill 7.



House Bill 600, which was signed into law with an emergency clause making this legislation effective July 1, 2003, affects all licensees within the Division of Professional Registration. Effective July 1, 2003, all persons and business entities applying for or renewing a professional license with the Division of Professional Registration are required to have paid all Missouri income taxes, and also are required to have filed all necessary state income tax returns for the preceding three years. If licensees have failed to pay their taxes or have failed to file their tax returns, their licenses will be subject to immediate revocation within 90 days of being notified by the Missouri Department of Revenue of any delinquency or failure to file. This requirement was enacted in House Bill 600 of the 92nd General Assembly (2003), and was signed into law on July 1st by the Governor. My Administrative Staff and the Division's Management Information System staff are working with the Department of Revenue and the Attorney General's Office to establish the necessary procedures for implementing this bill.

Finally, my Administrative Staff along with the Division's Management Information System staff have been working toward making on-line renewal a reality. We have just awarded the credit card contract and are hoping to start pilot boards renewing on-line this fall.

Yours truly,

Marilyn Taylor Williams
Division Director

Additional Certifications Approved for Licensure

With passage of HB 1738, legislative changes regarding the certifications that are recognized by the Board of Certification for Interpreters went into effect on August 28, 2002. In addition to certification offered by the Missouri Interpreter Certification System (MICS), specific certifications offered by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and the National Association for the Deaf (NAD) are now eligible for licensure by the State Committee of Interpreters, without conversion to MICS certification. These certifications include RID: CI/CT, CSC, CDI and NAD Levels 3, 4, and 5.

The State Committee of Interpreters has determined that the services provided by Deaf Interpreters do not fit the definition of "interpreting" as defined by RSMo 209.285 (15). Consequently, Deaf Interpreters are not required to be certified and licensed in order to practice in the state of Missouri. However, due to the passage of HB 1738, the RID certificate of Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) is now recognized by the Board of Certification for Interpreters and is eligible for licensure, on a voluntary basis.

Sandy Drummond, Member
State Committee of Interpreters

Board Member Vacancies

There is currently one (1) vacant position on the State Committee of Interpreters. The position is a deaf public member position.

Anyone interested or if you know of an interested individual contact Marilyn Taylor Williams, Director, Division of Professional Registration, P.O. Box 1335, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

Certification vs. Licensure

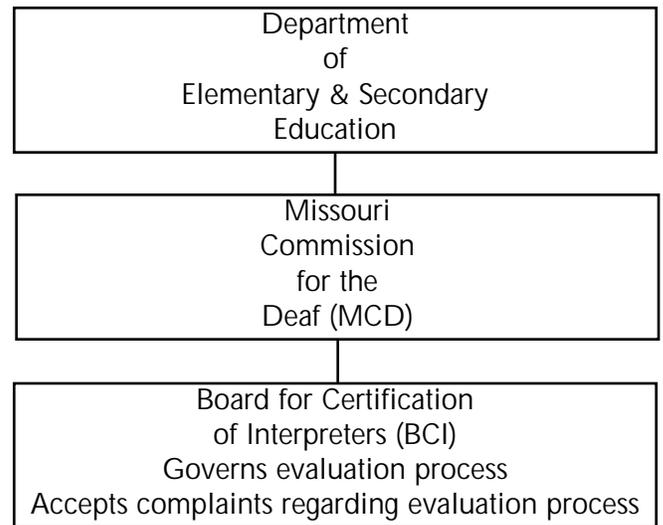
First and foremost, the practicing interpreter must be both Certified and Licensed to provide interpreting services and to be in compliance with the licensure law within the state of Missouri. The Licensure Law outlines the establishment of the Missouri State Committee of Interpreters within the Division of Professional Registration of the Department of Economic Development. The governor with the advice and consent of the senate appoints members to the Missouri State Committee of Interpreters. The purpose of the State Committee of Interpreters is to regulate and govern the practice of interpreting to protect the welfare of the inhabitants of Missouri against the unlawful practice of interpreting. The committee promulgated administrative rules to implement and sustain a system to govern the practice of interpreting and enforces Ethical Rules of Conduct. The administrative rules became effective July 30, 1999. Licenses must be renewed yearly. In addition, the committee handles complaints regarding the practice of interpreting.

The Board of Certification of Interpreters (BCI) established within the Missouri Commission for the Deaf (MCD) of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) governs the evaluation process and handles complaints regarding the evaluation process. The governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, appoints members to the board. The purpose of the Board of Certification of Interpreters is to protect the citizens of the state through certification of interpreters by evaluating their competence to practice. In addition, the BCI regulates and requires continuing education to maintain one's certification. The BCI strives to maintain the quality of interpreting services and to establish clear standards of professionalism in the interpreting profession. After an interpreter has completed the certification evaluation and has been granted a certification, the interpreter must then apply for a license in order to work in the state of Missouri as an interpreter.

The Missouri State Committee of Interpreters protects the public from inadequate or unlawful services provided by interpreters. In addition to governing the practice of interpreting, licensure enforces a code of ethical conduct promulgated in the administrative rules. The Board for Certification of Interpreters governs the certification process by determining an interpreter's skill

level through the evaluation process. The board also requires an interpreter to maintain certification through continuing education. Although, the committees are two separate entities governing two separate aspects of interpreting the practicing interpreter must have and maintain both a certification and a license to provide interpreting services in the state of Missouri.

CERTIFICATION OF INTERPRETERS



LICENSURE OF INTERPRETERS



Article submitted by Kim McEnulty, Member

Task Force for CDI's

On March 24, 2003 a task force committee met to discuss the issue of certifying deaf interpreters (CDI's). The task force consisted of representatives from the Missouri Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHA), the Board of Certification of Interpreters (BCI), the State Committee of Interpreters (SCI), the Missouri Association of the Deaf, the Missouri School for the Deaf, the Office of State Court Administrators (OSCA), and a licensed interpreter.

Before discussing issues with regard to providing licensure to CDI's, the task force acknowledged these challenges: a) the true number of applicants in Missouri is unknown but probably less than 15; b) developing a psychometrically valid test would be cost prohibitive c) situations may surface that will require changing statute/rule etc; d) making recommendations that represented a compromise would not satisfy everyone, but that the proposed recommendations were a reasonable place to start; and e) future changes would reflect solutions for future challenges

Task force members discussed such issues as the need for CDI's, in what settings that need might occur, and how often CDI's might be needed. The qualifications of CDI's were discussed in depth, ranging from the minimum qualifications needed to the proposed ability to provide services to all possible deaf consumers. Of considerable concern was the cost of obtaining certification from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID); therefore, conversions were discussed, as well as the possible development of tests by the BCI. It was recognized that with regard to current laws and rules for both OSCA and the BCI, statute changes may have to be made.

The task force recommended several things to the BCI. First, the title "certified deaf interpreter" should be changed to "certified relay interpreter" (CRI) to include those interpreters who meet qualifications and yet may not be deaf such as Children of Deaf Adults (CODA). Second, incorporate CRI's into the present skill level standards outlined in rule. Third, change rules to indicate different avenues to obtain Missouri certification. Two tracks were outlined and suggested to the BCI.

The first track involves someone who already holds

RID/CDI. That individual would pay the same conversion fee as usual to have the RID certification converted to the Missouri Interpreter Certification Septem (MICS). With the second track option, the individual would be required to have a pre-interview to determine initial candidacy, undergo training similar to the 16 hours required by RID CDI training, pass a written test, then pass a performance test. It was suggested that the written test be developed by adapting (probably) a sample test that RID provides to its applicants for practice. To reduce the factor of the examinee's English skill, the written test may be given in sign by a native ASL signer on videotape.

It was recommended to the BCI that the 16 hours of training required for the second track option be obtained through RID workshops. Also RID trainers could be brought to Missouri. It is possible that the Missouri School for the Deaf could provide subsidized lodging and meeting space to help reduce cost to potential applicants. Finally, all applicants must sign an affidavit to abide by the rules of ethical behavior as stated in statute/rule.

The task force concluded their meeting with Dr. Roy Miller planning to take the recommendations to the next BCI meeting scheduled for July 10, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Guillory, AUD

Complaint Statistics						
July 1 - June 30	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03
	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03
Complaints	4	7	19	6	8	2

Frequently Asked Questions



When does the license need to be renewed?

An interpreter’s license will expire January 31 of each calendar year. A renewal notice is sent to the licensee approximately 60 days in advance of the expiration date.

It is very important to keep the state committee informed of an interpreter’s mailing address because the renewal will be sent to the address maintained within the licensee’s file. Even if a licensee does not receive a renewal notice, the licensee is responsible for renewing a license.

What is the cost to renew a license?

The renewal fee is \$90.00.

What continuing education is required to maintain a license?

Continuing education, also known as permit/certification maintenance (PCM), is regulated by the Missouri Commission of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and is associated with maintaining a current certification. Questions regarding PCM should be directed to the commission office at 573/526-5205.

What type of documentation will the interpreter receive to verify licensure?

When an application is approved for licensure, the

interpreter will receive written notification along with a small license suitable for framing and a wallet card.

What if an interpreter changes an address or has a name change?

Maintaining accurate information is important. If an interpreter has an address change, either call the state committee office, send a brief note listing the changes in address, telephone number, etc. or fax the information to 573/526-3489. If an interpreter has a name change, it must be submitted in writing with a copy of the documentation (i.e. marriage license, court order) authorizing the name change.

Can an interpreter make copies of the law and rules booklet or form?

Yes.

How can an interpreter obtain a duplicate license?

If an interpreter misplaces a license or if the license is destroyed a duplicate can be issued. The interpreter must submit the request either by mail, e-mail or fax to the state committee office.

Mail: P.O. Box 1335, Jefferson City, MO 65102
 E-mail: interp@mail.state.mo.us
 Fax: (573) 526-3489
 Web: www.ecodev.state.mo.us/pr/inter

New Rule re: Response Requirement

A new rule took effect on May 31st, 2003. Well...not a new rule, but an old rule that has a new look. In the Ethical Rules of Conduct created by the State Committee of Interpreters (SCI), Rule #18 of the General Principles (4 CSR 232-3.010 [18]) will change a little bit. Currently, the rule requires a licensee to respond to any request for information from the SCI or the Central Investigative Unit (CIU) (working in the name of the committee). The new rule states that a licensee must respond to the committee within 30 days. If no response is received in that time, then disciplinary action may be taken against that license.



OK, a little background info. If a consumer has a complaint against an interpreter (not licensed, not following the Ethical Rules of Conduct, etc.), then the consumer completes and sends in a complaint form to the State Committee of Interpreters. Actually, the Central Investigative Unit (CIU...I know, more letters for the alphabet soup in our lives) receives the complaint, logs it into the system for tracking, and begins the process of review. Then, CIU sends a letter to the interpreter named in the complaint and asks for a response. That letter is sent "Return Receipt Requested," so both CIU and SCI will know when the letter was received. The date the interpreter receives the letter will start the clock ticking on the 30 day requirement. Once CIU receives the interpreter's response (within 30 days, of course) all the information is passed along to SCI for review and discussion at their next meeting.

"Whoa! Wait a sec! Who is a member of this CIU?" Well, let me tell you. The CIU works for the Division of Professional Registration (SCI's boss) and investigates complaints for all licensed professions. No, they are not interpreters. No, they are not Deaf. They are men and women who wanted this job. But, SCI has given them detailed instructions for handling complaints against interpreters. If there is any doubt or iffy-ness with the complaint, they stop their work and hand everything over to SCI. SCI then reviews the complaint and decides what to do next: either ask for a response or ask the complainant for more information. Better?

And now, back to our story. The response comes in, and CIU sends all the info to SCI. During an SCI closed session meeting, the members discuss the complaint and the response, and then decide on what action to take.

The reason for this change is a practical one. SCI meets every other month. If a complaint arrives the day after a meeting, then 60 days will go by without a decision or conclusion regarding the complaint. The committee wants to try and keep the "waiting time" down to a minimum, and not have the process go on for several months. The interpreter and the complainant deserve to know the outcome in a timely fashion. Knowing a complaint is out there, looming over your work, can be a bit nerve-wracking. The committee hopes that the new rule will allow them to resolve the complaint quickly and help save interpreters from chewing their fingernails to the nub. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to bring them to the SCI Town Hall meeting in August (for Kansas City) or October (for Lake of the Ozarks).

Article submitted by John T. Adams



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