

CAPTIONS

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CHANGES IN CERTIFICATION PROCESS FOR COURT INTERPRETERS

You may have heard that the Court Interpreter Program has recently implemented many changes to its training, testing and certification policies. Many of these changes have been implemented in response to issues of reciprocity between Consortium member states, and the desire to strengthen professional standards for interpreters across the state.

A big change to the certification process is that after 8/1/05, candidates are required to pass a **written exam** covering interpreter ethics, criminal procedure and English vocabulary, with a score of 80% or better. In addition, after August 1, candidates must pass **all three portions of the written examination** at one sitting to become certified.

Additionally, interpreters may only take each version of the oral exam (there are 3 Spanish versions at this time) once before sitting out from testing for a 3 year period. The program may continue to undergo changes as further discussions of this topic take place among Consortium member states, so please

consult the judicial website regularly www.courts.state.co.us for more information.

Background Checks are now required for all interpreters working in the state courts. If you are already working, you will receive the necessary forms from your supervisors. Interpreters who are not yet working in the courts will complete necessary forms as part of the certification process.

Continuing Education requirements are expected to go into effect soon, and a certain number of continuing education and professional practice hours will be required for an interpreter to maintain active status and be listed on the official rosters of state certified, professionally qualified and conditionally approved interpreters.

For more information, please refer to the court interpreter page on the state judicial website at www.courts.state.co.us or call Melinda González-Hibner at 303-837-3616.

WWW.COLORADOINTERPRETERS.ORG

Be sure to check the CAPI website regularly for updated training opportunities, job announcements, and general information. It also includes great links that may be of use in your work. CAPI periodically shares announcements with its members and contacts. If you haven't been receiving these, make sure we have your current e-mail address! Contact

info@coloradointerpreters.org

www.coloradointerpreters.org

CONTINUING EDUCATION

On July 9, 2005, CAPI hosted a seminar for interpreters titled: **“Did I Say That? 'Isn't That What She Said?' Self- and Other-Monitoring Activity in the Courtroom: Process and Problems”**, given by Nancy Schweda Nicholson, Ph.D., Professor of Linguistics, Cognitive Science and Legal Studies at the University of Delaware. Julia Davis wrote the following review.

CAPI's July 9 workshop on Self- and Other- Monitoring was a huge success! Approximately 30 interpreters representing no less than 5 language pairings attended this interesting opportunity to reflect on the process we all experience every time we work and even when we're not working: listening to and, when necessary, correcting ourselves.



Nancy Schweda Nicholson, Ph.D., who is a professor at the University of Delaware, focused on the process and the problems that interpreters experience, such as context (or lack thereof), mishearing, contradictions, and ambiguity.

Here are a few of the gems from the morning:

- Nancy recommended *Slips of the Ear*, a book by Zinny S. Bond on this subject.
- "Eloquence adjustment" or "PWS: Perfect Word Syndrome"

is when an interpreter seemingly can't resist replacing a perfectly good word choice with an even better one that he/she thought of in the next moment. This is something we ought to watch out for and avoid. Instead, save your better choice for next time!

- "Miscue" as a better word for "error": If ever you are in a situation where you fear a mistake has been made, especially when on the record at court, it would be wise to refer to it as a miscue and not an error, so as to minimize unnecessary hysteria from one or both parties. An example would be when due to lack of context you interpret a word using the wrong meaning. A common example in Spanish is the word *pinzas*, which can mean anything from a tweezers to a large pliers. If you were to decide to interpret it as "tweezers" and then later realize you should have selected "pliers," you can tell the judge that there may have been a miscue, and then correct it on the record.

- Other-monitoring: When working in pairs, start by asking your partner what would be helpful to them, instead of assuming that what works for you will work for everyone. It's a great learning opportunity. Also, don't offer feedback unless your partner has asked for it.

Special thanks to Anna Kelsey, Elia Simón-Martín and Ana Mostaccero of CAPI's Continuing Education Committee for taking the initiative to put this event together. Well done!

If you didn't make it, you missed not only a fun time, but also a chance to reflect on one of the most essential but intangible elements of our craft.



Let's keep learning!

Do you have a great idea for a continuing education workshop? So much to learn! Can you volunteer some time for this or another CAPI activity? How can we promote more activities for medical and community interpreters? What do interpreters working in languages other than Spanish need from CAPI? Let us know your thoughts and ideas! Contact the chair of the CAPI continuing education committee Elia Simon Martin eliamartin@comcast.net.

INTENSIVE WEEKEND SKILLS BUILDING CLASSES FOR COURT INTERPRETATION OFFERED BY CAPI

Take advantage of the upcoming skills building courses this October!

Note that classes will ONLY be held if minimum enrollment requirements are met.

These classes may not be offered again next year, as CAPI is shifting its energies to Continuing Education Efforts, so don't miss this chance!

October 1 & 2, 2005 – Spanish Skills Building Course – Consecutive Interpretation

Cost: \$125 Register by September 12, 2005

October 15 & 16, 2005 – Spanish Skills Building Course – Sight Interpretation

Cost: \$125 Register by September 15, 2005

October 29 & 30, 2005 – Spanish Skills Building Course – Simultaneous Interpretation

Cost: \$125 Register by September 30, 2005

For course descriptions and enrollment visit the CAPI website at www.coloradointerpreters.org

Court Interpreter Certification

September 17, 18 and 20 – Written Exam for Spanish Court Interpreter Certification Exam Candidates

Cost: Free Register Now!

September 24, 2005 - Interpreter Testing- LOTS (Languages Other Than Spanish)

Cost: \$250 for entire test, \$100 per portion Register Now!

November 19 & 20, 2005 - Interpreter Testing – Spanish

Cost: \$250 for entire test Register after October 1, 2005

For more information contact www.courts.state.co.us or call Melinda González-Hibner at 303 837 3616

JOIN US September 17, 2005

MEETING OF THE

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETERS

PENROSE PUBLIC LIBRARY

20 North Cascade

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80903

Everyone is welcome, membership in CAPI is not required.

Come get an update on CAPI's activities and renew your involvement in your professional organization. A brief meeting will be held at 10 am and in the afternoon attendees may participate in one of two FREE educational workshops for interpreters! (Legal: Family Courts; Medical: Physical Therapy)

We hope to see you there!

Ron Olson,
outgoing editor of
CAPTIONS, did a
great job on this
publication, thank
you for all your
hard work, Ron!

Captions is published quarterly by the Colorado Association of Professional Interpreters. If you have an article or announcement you'd like to submit, please send it to our editorial board at captions@coloradointerpreters.org