



NATIONAL DATABASE OF STATE COURT
INTERPRETERS

NCSC

Using the Database: Discover an Interpreter



Using the National Database of State Court Interpreters

Ensuring meaningful access to court services for Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals by providing qualified court interpreters is now considered a key standard and best practice. The diversity of languages, geographic location, and availability of qualified interpreters are all factors that have led to the creation of a centralized registry of interpreting services.

The NCSC launched the National Database of State Court Interpreters (NDSCI) to help states locate trained and qualified interpreters. The database offers multiple ways to search for an interpreter, such as by language, state, city, name, time zone, delivery method, or tier status.

This manual describes the process of searching for an interpreter and an overview of the search results.

Access the Database

To access the NDSCI, authorized users should contact their state's program manager to obtain a user name and password. If you are a program manager, contact NCSC's Language Access Services at 703-841-6903 to get logon credentials.

The user name and password never expire. Once you sign on for the first time, bookmark the database, so you will have immediate access when needed.

National Database of State Court Interpreters Website

Access the National Database of State Court Interpreters website: [ncsc.org/InterpreterSearch](https://www.ncsc.org/InterpreterSearch)

From the homepage you may log in with your username and password.

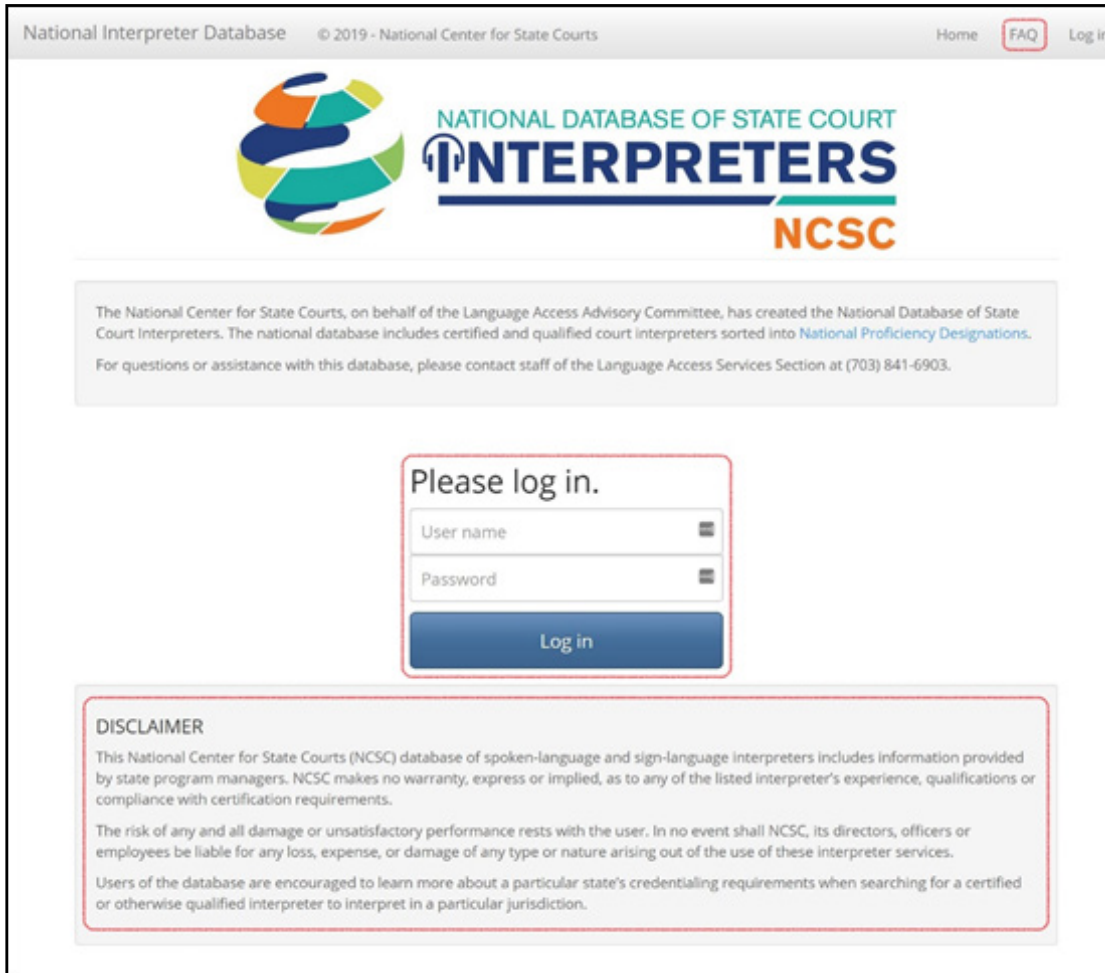


Figure 1: Database Homepage

Familiarize yourself with the National Database Disclaimer

This National Center for State Courts (NCSC) database of spoken-language and sign-language interpreters includes information provided by state program managers. NCSC makes no warranty, express or implied, as to any of the listed interpreter's experience, qualifications or compliance with certification requirements.

The risk of any and all damage or unsatisfactory performance rests with the user. In no event shall NCSC, its directors, officers or employees be liable for any loss, expense, or damage of any type or nature arising out of the use of these interpreter services.

Users of the database are encouraged to learn more about a particular state's credentialing requirements when searching for a certified or otherwise qualified interpreter to interpret in a particular jurisdiction.

SEARCHING FOR AN INTERPRETER

After logging in you will be presented with the search form.

Find an Interpreter

There are multiple ways to search for an interpreter. You can search by language, state, city, tier, first or last name, and time zone. You do not need to fill out every search query field. Once you click the "Search" button, a list of available interpreters will appear below on the same webpage.

Interpreter Language:

Interpreter Location:

Interpreter Tier:

Available in Person:
 Available by Phone:
 Available by Video:

Interpreter First Name:

Interpreter Last Name:

Interpreter Time Zone:

Figure 2: Interpreter Search form

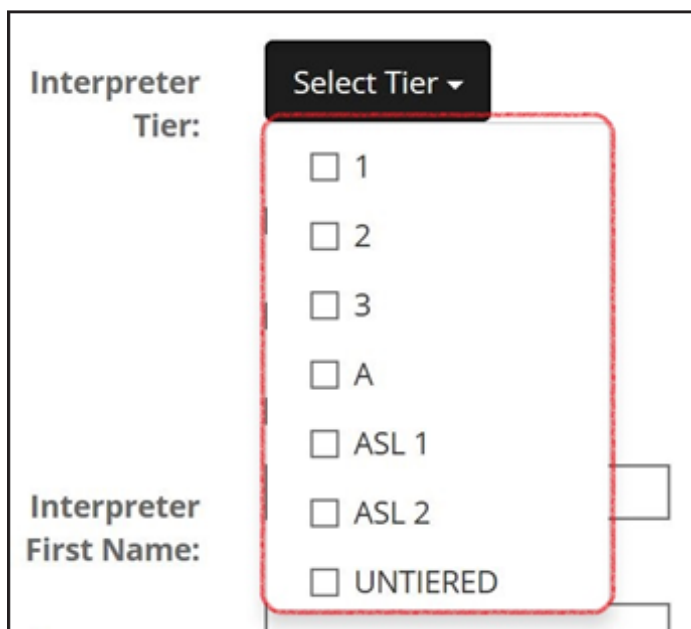
Use any combination of the search fields to narrow your interpreter search. You may search by language, location, availability, name, and interpreter time zone.

Language Selection

The languages displayed in the dropdown are languages for which there **is at least one** interpreter record in the database. Interpreter records are added and edited regularly, so the list will **change over time**. If a language is not in the dropdown it is because there is not an interpreter in the database for the language on the date you are performing your search.

If you do not select a language in the dropdown, all languages may be included in your search results.

Tier Selection



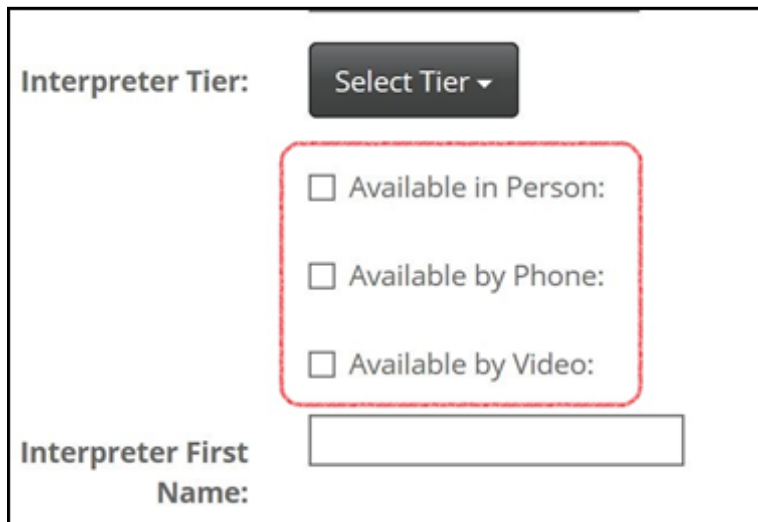
The image shows a search form with a dropdown menu for 'Interpreter Tier'. The dropdown is open, showing a list of options with checkboxes: 1, 2, 3, A, ASL 1, ASL 2, and UNTIERED. The dropdown is highlighted with a red dashed border. Below the dropdown, there are input fields for 'Interpreter First Name'.

Figure 3: Tier selection options

Optionally, you can select specific tiers of interpreters you want returned in the search results. You can select one, or several tiers. If you do not select any tier, all tiers may be included in your search results.

The classification of “Untiered” applies to interpreters who do not or cannot qualify for Tiers 1, 2, 3, A, ASL 1 or ASL 2. The untiered list may include interpreters with credentials in states not using the NCSC Oral Examination, or not using the NCSC Oral Examination at the time the interpreter was credentialed; interpreters in languages for which no NCSC Oral Examination exists and who do not meet the requirements for Tier A; and generally court interpreters whose credentials, while meeting state-specific requirements for state qualification, do not meet the national specifications for tier classification. Become familiar with the tier classifications: [ncsc.org/InterpreterTiers](https://www.ncsc.org/InterpreterTiers)

Availability Selection



The screenshot shows a form with the following elements:

- Interpreter Tier:** A dropdown menu with the text "Select Tier" and a downward arrow.
- Availability Options:** Three checkboxes, each followed by text:
 - Available in Person:
 - Available by Phone:
 - Available by Video:A red dashed box highlights these three options.
- Interpreter First Name:** A text input field.

Figure 4: Availability options

Optionally, you can select from the availability choices. Your selections narrow search results to include interpreters that have **explicitly** registered as interested in providing interpretation services “in Person”, “by Phone”, or “by Video.” Some interpreters have not indicated their availability, even if they are available in person, by phone or by video. You must confirm with a selected interpreter if they meet your court’s criteria to interpret with the delivery method required.

If you do not select any of the availability criteria, your results may include any interpretation mode.

Searching by First Name and Last Name

Optionally, you can search by either “First Name” and/or “Last Name”. This will filter the interpreter result to **exact matches** of the text in “First Name” and/or “Last Name.” For example, searching for the first name “Chris” will not include interpreters with the first name “Christopher.”

If you do not enter a First Name or Last Name the results may include interpreters with any first or last name.

Time Zone Selection

Optionally, you can select a single time zone to apply to your search criteria. The time zones are limited to U.S. time zones: Eastern, Central, Mountain, Pacific, Alaska, and Hawaii.

If you do not select a time zone, results may include interpreters in any time zone.

SEARCH RESULTS

After clicking the “Search” button on the search form, you will be presented with up to 20 random results meeting your search criteria. If there are fewer than 21 results available that meet your search criteria, you will be presented with the complete list of registered interpreters that meet your search criteria.

An example of a search that resulted in a single result:



Figure 5: Single search result

An example of the results displayed when more than 20 records exist that match the search criteria. Each search may produce a unique set of 20. Records may repeat within separate searches due to the randomization.

Search Results: 20 records returned

For another random group of 20, search again.

Amber - AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE - UNTIERED
PLYMOUTH MEETING, PENNSYLVANIA USA
States Certified: Pennsylvania
 @verizon.net
Availability:

Kathleen - AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE - ASL 2
SHILLINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA USA
States Certified: Pennsylvania
 @comcast.net
Availability:

Pamela - AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE - ASL 2
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA USA
States Certified: Pennsylvania
 @yahoo.com
Availability:

Figure 6: Random search results

Each search result includes the language, tier, contact, and availability details for the interpreter.

[Jason, Jack](#) - AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE - UNTIERED
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA USA
555-555-5555, @ncsc.org
Availability: In Person, by Video

Figure 7: Search result

The email address is click-able and will open an email form using your computer's default email application.

The name is clickable and will present the Interpreter Details form.

Viewing Interpreter Details

All Interpreter Detail forms display tier, language, location, contact information, availability, and whether credentialing or performance issues have been reported by a state program manager.

The “Additional Details” displayed change if the interpreter is an ASL interpreter.

ASL Interpreter Details

UNTIERED AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA 23185 USA

CONTACT DETAILS

- Interpreter Primary Phone: 555-555-5555
- Interpreter Secondary Phone: 777-777-7777
- Time Zone of Interpreter Residence: EASTERN
- Email: [redacted]@ncsc.org

AVAILABILITY

- Interpreter is Available In Person: Yes
- Interpreter Can Work Remote by Video: Yes

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Interpreter is Court Staff Interpreter?: Not Provided
- Interpreter has Special Certificate: Legal?: Not Provided
- Interpreter has Conditional Legal Interpreting Permit-Relay?: Not Provided
- Interpreter has ASL National Interpreter Certification?: Not Provided
- Interpreter has Comprehensive Skills Certification?: Not Provided
- Interpreter has ASL Certificate of Interpreting/Certificate of Transliteration?: Not Provided
- Interpreter has ASL National Association of the Deaf Certification?: Not Provided
- Interpreter is Certified Deaf Interpreter?: Not Provided
- Interpreter Completed State Court Interpreters Orientation?: Not Provided

CREDENTIALING AND PERFORMANCE ISSUES

- None reported

[Back to Search Results](#)

Figure 8: Interpreter Details form for an ASL interpreter

Non-ASL Interpreter Details

UNTIERED TURKISH FAIRVIEW, NEW JERSEY USA

CONTACT DETAILS

- Interpreter Primary Phone:
- Interpreter Secondary Phone: Not Provided
- Time Zone of Interpreter Residence: Eastern Standard Time
- Email: @live.com

AVAILABILITY

- Interpreter is Available In Person: No
- Interpreter Can Work Remote by Phone: No
- Interpreter Can Work Remote by Video: No

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Interpreter is Court Staff Interpreter?: No
- Interpreter Completed State Court Interpreters Orientation?: Yes

CREDENTIALING AND PERFORMANCE ISSUES

- None reported

[Back to Search Results](#)

Figure 9: Interpreter Details form for non-ASL interpreters

Credentialing and Performance Issues

If a state Program Manager has reported credentialing and/or performance issues with the interpreter, the Interpreter Details form will instruct you to call the Program Manager for details. This state to contact is indicated.



Figure 10: Credentialing and Performance Issues display

NEXT STEPS

After you have identified one or more interpreters that meet your needs contact the interpreter directly using the contact information listed in the National Database.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Review the FAQ link for the National Database of State Court Interpreters for answers to common questions. The link to the FAQ section is found in the header on the National Database website.



Figure 11: National Database webpage header

For questions or assistance with this database, please contact NCSC staff of the Language Access Services Section at (703) 841-6903.