**Orientation to Court Interpreting---Frequently Asked Questions**

1. What is Orientation to Court Interpreting?

Orientation is a 2-day event designed to give participants an overview of the Court Interpreter Program. Ethics and protocol, criminal and civil procedures, the certification process and what to expect as a professional court interpreter are other topics expected to be explained. The morning of the second day attendees will have the opportunity to observe live criminal proceedings take place in a courtroom. Followed by an afternoon classroom setting that seeks to engage each prospective interpreter in practice exercises that will place them in the role of the court interpreter.

1. What is a Court Interpreter?

Spoken language court interpreters interpret in criminal or civil proceedings for a variety of individuals who speak or understand little or no English. Their role is to render a complete and accurate interpretation or translation, without altering, omitting, or adding anything to what is stated or written, and without explanation. Court Interpreters accurately interpret for persons with a high level of education and an extensive vocabulary, as well as for those with very limited language skills without changing the language register of the speaker.

1. Must I attend both days of this orientation if I already know some of the court proceedings and have knowledge of legal terminology?

Yes. Having some knowledge of the judicial system and/or legal terminology does not replaces the amount of information taught during the two days of Orientation to Court Interpreting.

1. Can I use the “Bridging the Gap” course instead of attending Orientation?

No. Bridging the Gap is a professional development course created to prepare “bilingual individuals to work as medical interpreters”, according to information available on their website. Its’ only focus is the medical field, which is different from the judicial system. You must attend the Orientation to Court Interpreting event before proceeding to the following steps if you’d like to become a State Court Certified Interpreter.

1. Who teaches Orientation to Court Interpreting?

There’s a variety of individuals that teach the orientation course. You can anticipate to receive the information from State Court Certified Interpreters, with some participation from the Administrator and Court Programs Analysts of the Office of Language Access.

1. I attended Orientation to Court Interpreting a few months/years ago, do I have to attend again?

If you have attended or complied with one of the previous steps, most likely you will not be asked to do so again. Please contact the Office Language Access at: [interpreters@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:interpreters@judicial.state.co.us) for more information on this.