

In the Iowa Supreme Court

**In the Matter of Amendments to
Chapter 47 of the Iowa Court Rules
Regarding Court Interpreters and
Translators**

Order

The Iowa Supreme Court adopts amendments to chapter 47 of the Iowa Court Rules regarding court interpreters and translator rules.


The amendments to chapter 47 include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Rule 47.3(7): The amendments clarify courts' options for using interpreter services through remote audio or video communications for court proceedings expected to last two hours or less and for proceedings expected to last more than two hours.
- Rule 47.3(12)(b): Appointment of a team or relay interpreters is mandatory when reasonably available in proceedings that are complex or that will last more than four hours.
- Rule 47.3(15): New rule 47.13(15) streamlines and simplifies the invoicing process for court interpreters and translators. State court administration and its office of language access services worked extensively with court interpreters, language access coordinators, and judicial branch IT personnel to develop a more responsive and convenient invoicing process.
- Rule 47.6(2)(d)(2): The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) oral proficiency interview exam is approved as an alternative court interpreter certification exam. Interpreters must score at least 11 for the exam on the interpreter's other language and at least an advanced rating for the English exam.
- Rule 47.18—Form 1: The Certification of Interpretation of a Legally Binding Document form is updated.

The amendments to chapter 47 and Form 1 are provided with this order and are effective July 1, 2024.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2024.

The Iowa Supreme Court

By: 

Susan Larson Christensen, Chief Justice

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