

# UNITED STATES COURT INTERPRETER COMPENSATION DATABASE:

## Chapter 7: Florida Judicial Circuit Courts

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When the authors began the data collection process, we mistakenly believed staff interpreters were county employees and therefore we began collecting data from each county that had one or more staff interpreters. We eventually discovered that, except for a few staff interpreters in Miami, all staff interpreters had been state employees since July 1, 2004. We've included here the data we collected from the circuit courts that have one or more staff interpreters in recognition of the efforts of so many court managers in Florida to contribute to the data collection process. The only information contained in this volume that is not included in the Florida section of Chapter 3 is the job titles that are in use in some of the trial courts which vary from state personnel policy.

October 6, 2014  
Errata Corrected December 16, 2015

# FLORIDA<sup>1</sup>

## Staff Court Interpreters<sup>2</sup>

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter [not certified]	\$37,756.20	\$76,041.05
Court Interpreter – Certified	\$41,267.76	\$83,113.24
Assistant Supervising Court Interpreter	\$45,303.72	\$86,077.08
Supervising Court Interpreter	\$52,444.80	\$99,645.12

Fringe:

Work week: 40 hours

## Independent Contractor Court Interpreters<sup>3</sup>

While Florida is a decentralized court system and has not established rates for compensating contract interpreters, the Supreme Court has adopted *maximum* compensation rates that may not be exceeded, except "... in extenuating circumstances as approved by the Chief Judge of the circuit."

Category of Interpreter	Hourly Rate with 2-hour minimum and 1/4 hour increments thereafter
Spanish	
Certified	\$60
Non-certified	\$45
Haitian Creole	
Certified	\$90
Non-certified	\$75
Other Spoken Languages	
Certified	\$120
Non-certified	\$90

<sup>1</sup> E-mails from Lisa Bell, Senior Court Operations Consultant, Office of the State Courts Administrator (July 9 and October 7, 2013; March 11, 2014). Telephone interview with Ms. Bell (March 11, 2014).

<sup>2</sup> The salary ranges were obtained from [http://www.flcourts.org/gen\\_public/employment/salary-schedule1.shtml](http://www.flcourts.org/gen_public/employment/salary-schedule1.shtml). The job descriptions are also available at this URL.

<sup>3</sup> "In re: Court Interpreting Services in Florida's Trial Courts" (January 30, 2012), p. 8; <http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/clerk/adminorders/2011/aosc11-45.pdf>.

**FLORIDA, 7th Judicial Circuit<sup>4</sup>**  
 (Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns, and Volusia Counties [Volusia County, Deland])

**Staff Court Interpreters<sup>5</sup>**  
 (State Employees)

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter - Certified	\$41,267.76	\$83,113.24
Supervising Court Interpreter	\$52,444.80	\$105,623.83

Fringe: Approximately 30.00%

Work week: 40 hours

**Independent Contractor Court Interpreters**

Category of Interpreter	Hourly Rate
<b>Spanish Interpreters:<sup>6</sup></b>	
State/Federally certified	\$48
State qualified (have taken the oral exam but have not yet applied for certification)	\$45
Duly qualified (have not yet taken or passed the oral exam)	\$40
Locally approved	\$35
<b>Languages Other Than Spanish:</b>	
Rates are negotiated on a case-by-case basis, depending on the person's experience and geographical location, so there are no uniform rates. The office abides by the maximum rates set by the Florida Supreme Court's order. <sup>7</sup>	Haitian Creole: maximum of \$90 Other spoken languages: maximum of \$120

There is a 2-hour minimum plus mileage for all levels and, if applicable, mileage, which is paid at \$0.445/mile.

<sup>4</sup> E-mails from Claudia E. Villalba, Supervising Court Interpreter (August 30, 2013 and January 13, 2014).

<sup>5</sup> The salary ranges were obtained from [http://www.flcourts.org/gen\\_public/employment/salary-schedule1.shtml](http://www.flcourts.org/gen_public/employment/salary-schedule1.shtml). The job descriptions are also available at this URL.

<sup>6</sup> Note: The last three levels will be eliminated as soon as possible in order to use only certified court interpreters.

<sup>7</sup> "In re: Court Interpreting Services in Florida's Trial Courts" (January 30, 2012), <http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/clerk/adminorders/2011/aosc11-45.pdf>.

**FLORIDA, 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit**  
(Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, and Union Counties [Gainesville])<sup>8</sup>

**Staff Court Interpreter**  
(State Employees)

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreting Manager/Court Interpreter	\$37,756.20	\$76,041.05

Fringe: Not available  
Work week: 40 hours

**Independent Contractor Court Interpreters**

Not available.

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<sup>8</sup> Telephone interview with Miguel Paz, Court Interpreting Manager/Court Interpreter (February 19, 2014).

**FLORIDA, 9th Judicial Circuit<sup>9</sup>**  
 (Orange and Osceola Counties [Orange County, Orlando])

**Staff Court Interpreters**  
 (State Employees)

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter [uncertified]	\$37,756.20	\$76,041.05
Court Interpreter Certified	\$41,267.76	\$83,113.24
Supervising Court Interpreter	\$52,444.80	\$105,623.83

Fringe: 28.00%  
 Work week: 40 hours

**Independent Contractor Court Interpreters**

Category of Interpreter	Hourly Rate
Spanish Interpreters--State Qualified and State Certified	\$45
Creole Interpreters:	
Interpreter [with none of the credentials listed below]	\$40
Court Qualified	\$45
State Qualified and State Certified	\$50
All Other Spoken Languages	
Interpreter [with none of the credentials listed below]	\$45
Court Qualified	\$50
State Qualified and State Certified	\$55
Remote Interpreting [all languages]	\$40

There is a 2-hour minimum for all categories and levels of contract interpreters, except remote interpreting.

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<sup>9</sup> E-mails from Ody Arias-Zerivitz, Interpreter Program Manager (September 20 and 23, 2013).

**FLORIDA, 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit<sup>10</sup>**  
 (Hardee, Highlands, and Polk Counties [Polk County, Bartow])

**Staff Court Interpreters**  
 (State Employees)

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter [not certified]	\$37,756.20	\$76,041.00
Court Interpreter-Certified	\$41,267.76	\$83,113.24
Supervising Court Interpreter	\$41,267.76	\$83,113.24

Fringe: 22.00%  
 Work week: 40 hours

**Independent Contractor Court Interpreters**

Category of Interpreter	Hourly rate with 2-hour minimum	Half Day	Full Day
Haitian Creole and Spanish	\$5	\$130	\$220
Other spoken languages	\$65	N/A	N/A

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<sup>10</sup> E-mails from Stephanie Sullivan, Probate Case Manager for Judge Carpanini (December 12 and 16, 2013).

**FLORIDA, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit<sup>11</sup>**  
(Dade County [Miami])

**Staff Court Interpreters<sup>12</sup>**  
(State and County Employees)<sup>13</sup>

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Duly Qualified/State Funded	\$37,756.20	\$71,736.84
Duly Qualified/County Funded	\$38,076.48	None set
Certified State/County Funded	\$41,267.76	\$78,408.72
Assistant Supervising Court Interpreter	\$45,303.72	\$86,077.08
Supervising Court Interpreter	\$52,444.80	\$99,645.12

Fringe: Approximately 27.00%  
Work week: 40 hours

**Independent Contractor Court Interpreters**

Category of Interpreter	Hourly Rate
Spanish	\$30 (no 2-hr. minimum)
Creole	\$35 (no 2-hr. minimum)
All other languages	\$50-115 with a 2-hr. minimum

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<sup>11</sup> E-mails from Ana M. Cabezon, Supervisor, Department of Translation and Interpretation, Criminal Division (September 27 and 30, October 1, 2013).

<sup>12</sup> "Salary Schedule," [http://www.flcourts.org/gen\\_public/employment/salary-schedule1.shtml](http://www.flcourts.org/gen_public/employment/salary-schedule1.shtml). Job descriptions are also available at this website.

<sup>13</sup> Most are state employees, but there are 9 county-funded positions.

FLORIDA, 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
(Hillsborough County [Tampa])<sup>14</sup>

Staff Court Interpreters  
(State Employees)

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Manager, Court Interpreter Center	\$52,444.80	\$105,623.83
Court Interpreter – Certified	\$41,267.76	\$83,113.24
Court Interpreter [not certified]	\$37,756.20	\$76,041.05

Fringe: Not available  
Work week: 40 hours

Independent Contractor Court Interpreters

Not available.

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<sup>14</sup> Telephone interview with Maritza López (January 21, 2014).



**FLORIDA, 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit<sup>15</sup>**  
(Palm Beach County [West Palm Beach])

**Staff Court Interpreters**  
(State Employees)

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Supervising Court Interpreter	\$52,444.80	\$105,623.83
Certified Court Interpreter	\$41,267.76	\$83,113.24
Court Interpreter [have satisfied some but not all of the requirements for certification]	\$37,756.20	\$76,041.05

Fringe: 22.00%  
Work week: 40 hours

**Independent Contractor Court Interpreters**

Category of Interpreter	Hourly Rate
Creole and Spanish	\$35.00
Languages other than Creole and Spanish	Ranges from \$50 to a maximum of \$100

There is a two-hour minimum for all contract court interpreters.

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<sup>15</sup> E-mails from Irene Nocera, Supervising Court Interpreter, Court Interpreters Office (November 14, 2013).

**FLORIDA, 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
(Monroe County)<sup>16</sup>**

**Staff Court Interpreters: Plantation Key  
(State Employee)**

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Supervising Court Interpreter [not certified]	\$48,200.28	None set

Fringe: \$15,168.72  
Work week: 40 hours

**Staff Court Interpreters: Key West  
(State Employee)**

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter – Certified	\$41,267.76	\$83,113.24

Fringe: \$7,098.24<sup>17</sup>  
Work week: 40 hours

**Independent Contractor Court Interpreters**

No Spanish contract interpreters are certified.

Uncertified Spanish interpreters: \$45 for the first hour and \$45 each additional hour, prorated to quarter hours.

Non-Spanish interpreters: \$50 for the first hour and \$50 each additional hour, prorated to quarter hours.

Mileage is reimbursed at \$0.445/mile (no travel time).

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<sup>16</sup> Telephone interview with Isis Majeska, Supervising Court Interpreter (January 21, 2014); e-mails from Ms. Majeska (January 22 and 23, 2014).

<sup>17</sup> The large difference between the amounts of fringe reported is attributed to the number of dependents included; the supervisor has a family and the staff interpreter is single.

**FLORIDA, 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit<sup>18</sup>**  
 (Broward County [Fort Lauderdale])

**Staff Court Interpreters**  
 (State Employees)

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter	\$37,756.20	\$71,736.84
Court Interpreter – Certified	\$41,267.76	\$78,408.72
Assisting Supervising Court Interpreter	\$45,303.72	\$86,077.08
Supervising Court Interpreter	\$52,444.80	\$99,645.12

Fringe: 40.3%  
 Work week: 40 hours

**Independent Contractor Court Interpreters**

Category of Interpreter	Hourly Rate
Creole and Spanish	\$35
Arabic, Cantonese, French, German, Italian, Korean, Mandarin, Polish, Romanian, Russian, and Vietnamese	\$50
Portuguese	\$50-60
Bengali, Hindi, Marathi, and Urdu	\$65
Hebrew	\$75
All other languages	\$95-120

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<sup>18</sup> E-mails from Diana Sobel, Chief of Personnel Services (December 3 and 4, 2013).

FLORIDA, 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit--Seminole County  
(Brevard and Seminole Counties [Seminole County, Sanford])<sup>19</sup>

Staff Court Interpreters  
(State Employees)

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Staff Interpreter [uncertified] <sup>20</sup>	\$37,756.20	\$76,041.05

Fringe: Not available  
Work week: 40 hours

Independent Contractor Court Interpreters

Not available.

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<sup>19</sup> E-mails from Wendy W. Whitsett, Court Operations Manager (January 6 and 9, 2014).

<sup>20</sup> The salary range was obtained from [http://www.flcourts.org/gen\\_public/employment/salary-schedule1.shtml](http://www.flcourts.org/gen_public/employment/salary-schedule1.shtml). The job description is also available at this URL.

**FLORIDA, 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit**  
(Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties  
[St. Lucie County, Fort Pierce])<sup>21</sup>

**Staff Court Interpreters**  
(State Employees)

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Supervising Court Interpreter	\$52,444.80	\$52,444.80
Court Interpreter [uncertified]	\$37,756.20	\$76,041.05

Fringe: Unavailable  
Work week: 40 hours

**Independent Contractor Court Interpreters**

Unavailable

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<sup>21</sup> Telephone interview with Rosario Valdiviezo, Supervising Court Interpreter (January 21, 2014).

## FLORIDA, 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit<sup>22</sup>

(Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties; one or more staff court interpreters are in Charlotte [Punta Gorda], Collier [Naples], and Lee Counties [Fort Meyers])

### Staff Court Interpreters—Charlotte County (State Employees)

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter [uncertified]	\$37,756.20	\$76,041.05

Fringe: Not available  
Work week: 40 hours

### Staff Court Interpreters—Collier County (State Employees)

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter [uncertified]	\$37,756.20	\$76,041.05

Fringe: Not available  
Work week: 40 hours

### Staff Court Interpreters—Lee County (State Employees)

Title	Minimum	Maximum
Court Interpreter [uncertified]	\$37,756.20	\$76,041.05
Court Interpreter [certified]	\$41,267.76	\$83,113.24
Supervising Court Interpreter	\$52,444.80	\$105,623.83

Fringe: Not available  
Work week: 40 hours

### Independent Contractor Court Interpreters

Not available

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<sup>22</sup> Telephone interviews with Rebeca Lade, Supervising Court Interpreter (December 2, 2013 and February 14, 2014).