



National Association of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators  
2002 Summit Blvd., Suite 300  
Atlanta, GA 30319  
Tel: 404-566-4705

December 2020

This letter is intended to clarify some misconceptions that may exist regarding the federal court interpreter certification.

The Federal Court Interpreter Certification Examination (FCICE) is currently available only in the English-Spanish language combination. When the test was initially offered under contract with the University of Arizona in the early 80s, Navajo and Haitian Creole were included among the languages tested. Those languages are no longer tested nor has any language other than Spanish been tested since the early 90s. [See: <https://www.uscourts.gov/services-forms/federal-court-interpreters/interpreter-categories> and <https://www.uscourts.gov/services-forms/federal-court-interpreters>.]

The federal certification system does not assign numbers to interpreters who acquire this credential. The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts has confirmed that a random number used at times on certificates by the printing company is in no way linked to the interpreter named on that certificate. In other words, the federal courts do not assign numbers to their certified interpreters.

On occasion, NAJIT receives information about interpreters in languages other than Spanish who claim to be federally certified. *Ad hoc* approval to work in Immigration courts or any federal agency, such as DEA, FBI, DOJ or HHS, should not be construed or represented by any party as a *bona fide* credential.

The complete and updated roster of federally-certified interpreters can be found on the NAJIT website [[https://najit.org/resources/public\\_release\\_roster/](https://najit.org/resources/public_release_roster/)] and is updated regularly.

It is our hope that this information will be helpful when ascertaining the accuracy of an interpreter's credentials, particularly when claiming to be a federally-certified interpreter.

Sincerely,

The NAJIT Board of Directors