

How do I get started as an interpreter in Kentucky if I'm not RID or NIC certified?

Practicing interpreting in any setting (including K-12 education) in Kentucky requires a state issued license. To apply for a temporary license you must have one of the following:

1. Graduated from an ITP or
2. SLPI (formerly SCPI) score of Intermediate Plus or above or
3. NAD III

If you have at least one of these, the following steps describe how you obtain your license. (If you do not meet the above criteria, go to Section 2 – next page)

1. Secure a mentor/supervisor of record and complete a plan of supervision that describes how you both will proceed forward with your skill development as an interpreter. This is a legally binding document. You both are required have communication quarterly and a face to face meeting once a year (at a minimum). The remaining meetings can be through alternative means such as videoconferencing.
2. Complete 8 hours of CEUs on the 'Role of the Interpreter' and 8 hours of CEUs on 'Interpreter Ethics'. (Graduates from an Interpreter Training Program are exempt as it is included in the coursework.)
3. Once you have a mentor and the necessary training, you must send the following to the Kentucky Board of Interpreters (KBI):
 - ✓ completed temporary license application
 - ✓ completed plan of supervision – signed by both you and your mentor
 - ✓ proof of CEUs - 8 hours on Role of the Interpreter & 8 hours on Ethics
 - ✓ fees totaling \$100
 - \$50 for the application – non-refundable
 - \$50 for the license – refundable if granted
 - ✓ One of the following:
 - Transcript from your ITP (BA/BS/AA degree) or
 - Copy of your SLPI results: (Intermediate Plus for P-12), (Advanced or above for P-12 and Community work) or
 - Copy of your NAD III results

The application and plan of supervision forms can be obtained at the following link, in the upper right-hand corner under 'Additional Information' [link to finance cabinet information on interpreters](#)

Once you have received your temporary license, you can then approach districts in Kentucky to apply for employment since this license is required to practice in our state.

(Refer to the KDE Educational Interpreter Guidelines or the KBI website listed above for more information.)

Section 2:

If you are not a graduate from an Interpreter Training Program and do not have an NAD III, then you can take the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI). This is not an interpreting test, but rather a look at your overall ASL skills. An interviewer records the two of you having a general conversation in sign language with no voice. The videotape is then sent to reviewers who will give you a rating based on your signing skills. If you receive an Intermediate Plus or above, then you are able to receive your initial temporary license.

For more information, visit [Link for more information at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf](#)

To schedule an interview, contact the SLPI coordinator at the Kentucky School for the Deaf by calling (859)936-6710.

Links of interest:

Kentucky Board of Interpreters – Laws & Regulations, Application Forms

[Link to Laws, Regulations and Application Forms](#)

EKU Interpreter Training Program – Workshops, Lending Library

[Link to EKU Interpreter Training Program](#)

Kentucky School for the Deaf – SLPI Interviews

[Link to the Kentucky School for the Deaf](#)

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing – NIC Testing

[Link to the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#)

Kentucky Department of Education – Guidelines, Newsletter [Link to the Kentucky Department of Education](#) Click [Special Education](#) Click [P-12 Educational Interpreter](#)