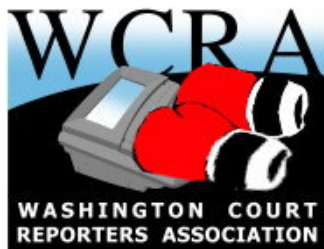


How Do the New Laws Affect Court Reporters in Washington?

Thanks to the passage of House Bill 5286, as of June 10, 2010, Certified Court Reporters no longer need to be Notaries Public in order to swear in witnesses and transcript certificates no longer need to be notarized by the Court Reporter preparing the transcript.

Also, Senate Bill 6450, the Continuing Education Bill, was passed in the 2010 legislative session and now continuing education is mandatory for all Washington CCRs. Currently, the WAC language has not yet been adopted, but as proposed, CCRs will be required to get 5 hours of continuing education per year to retain their license. RPRs are already familiar with NCRA's requirement of 30 hours per three-year period, but Washington's proposed requirements will differ in two respects; first, each year only 5 hours are required, and at the end of each year all credits are wiped out on the anniversary date of the reporter's license, so there will be no carry-over of credits as there is with NCRA. All NCRA-approved credits and WCRA-approved credits will count, and there will be other opportunities afforded by the state to retain licensure status as a Certified Court Reporter.



Gov. Chris Gregoire signs SB 6450. 20100312-0024 WASENATE ab

House Bill 2861

Oaths & Affirmation Law

Washington CCRs are now included in the RCW that establishes who can administer oaths and affirmations, removing the necessity of CCRs maintaining a Notary Public license, which became effective June 9, 2010. This means court reporters no longer have to be Notaries to swear witnesses.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do I still notarize my transcripts?

No, you should not notarize your transcripts, BUT you may want to keep your notary certification. This may be another source of income or a value added service you give to your clients.

Does my certificate page change?

Yes, your certificate page should reflect the changes in the law as it affects court reporters, and a sample certificate is available from WCRA. Go to washingtoncourtreporters.org to get more information.

What does a CCR stamp look like?



A CCR stamp has been designed by our 2009-2010 President, Roger Flygare, and personalized stamps can be for purchased at the Fall Convention.

How does WCRA help its members?

Many of the members of WCRA spend countless hours for the betterment of our profession in the State of Washington. In addition to the Board Members that you see each year at the Spring and Fall Convention, there are many other people who volunteer their time, both working Court Reporters as well as students, to make a difference.

Some of the ways that court reporters can keep up with the latest information available is via our website at washingtoncourtreporters.org, where you will find answers to many questions, newsletter articles, information on membership, upcoming seminars, parties, and who is your area director for your area.

For 2009-2010, here are the Area Directors:
Area 1 Director (Metropolitan Seattle)

Mark E. King, CCR

markking@washingtoncourtreporters.org

Area 2 Director (Northwest)

Emily K. Niles-Preciado, RMR, CRR

emilyniles@washingtoncourtreporters.org

Area 3 Director

Lori Stefano, CCR

(Southwest & Peninsula)

loristefano@washingtoncourtreporters.org

Area 4 Director (Central)

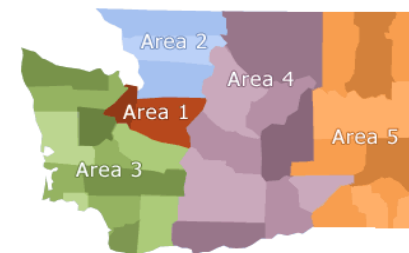
ChaeRae Kent, CCR

charaekent@washingtoncourtreporters.org

Area 5 Director (Eastern)

Terry Sperry, CCR

terrysperry@washingtoncourtreporters.org



WCRA Informational Handout ~ 2010

Senate Bill 6450

CCR Mandatory Continuing Education

This bill established continuing education requirements for state Certified Court Reporters. This amends RCW 18.145.050 and 18.145.100, existing Court Reporter certification statutes, and adds continuing education requirements to the initial certificating and renewal requirements managed by the Department of Licensing.

Why was WCRA behind this proposal? As a licensed profession, Certified Court Reporters, like other licensed professions, need to stay abreast of developing technology and changes in laws regarding their profession. The better educated we are, the better the community that we work in will be served. .

The Washington Administrative Code enabling language has not yet been established, so CCRs are not required to get continuing education as of this writing (September 2010). The Washington Department of Licensing will notify all stakeholders when the enabling language is established

Frequently Asked Questions

How often do I have to have CEUs?

As proposed, each year Washington CCRs will be required to take 5 hours of continuing education.

How do I get CEUs?

CEUs can be obtained through successful completion of NCRA-approved classes, both in person and online. WCRA will be offering opportunities for members to obtain credits, and the State will also be offering several other methods of obtaining credits each year.

How many do I have to get?

As proposed, Washington CCRs will need 5 hours of continuing education each year, with no carry-over of credits if more than 5 hours are obtained in any one year.

Will my RPR credits count toward Washington state CEUs?

Yes. WCRA will be offering opportunities in-state for our Reporters, also, that will count for RPRs.

What happens if I don't get my continuing education?

If you do not comply with the new requirements, your license will be suspended and you will no longer be allowed to work in Washington as a CCR until the requirements have been fulfilled.



In 2010, WCRA is celebrating 85 years of promoting excellence in the court reporting community, and many reporters have worked hard on behalf of our profession to give us the livelihood and professional status we enjoy today.

Although on a daily basis we sometimes lose sight of this fact, we are considered professionals and respected by judges and lawyers alike.

The Court Reporters who went before us paved the way by getting us certified back in the 1980s, and several waves of attacks on the Reporting profession have been pushed back by both court reporters and others that respect and support us. We need to continue that tradition as we look to the future, because now it is our turn to protect for the next generation that which was given to us.

For more information, please visit our website:

<http://www.washingtoncourtreporters.org/>