STEP 4: 2-DAY ORIENTATION AND OBSERVATION

Orientation:
The 2-day orientation introduces candidates to the Virginia Judicial System, courtroom protocol, interpreter roles, interpreting modes, and the Code of Professional Responsibility. It also covers self-study techniques, practice sessions, available resources, and tips for preparing for the oral certification exam.

4.1 Court Observation (15 Hours):
After orientation, candidates must complete 15 hours of courtroom observation.
Observation Hours Reporting Form *required.*

Beginning in October 2025, all interpreter candidates who have completed the first four steps must reach one of the following milestones **before** providing services in Virginia courts:

1. Conditionally Approved
- Score 50% or more on each section of the oral exam.
- Must achieve the next designation within two years.
- Sign the Interpreter's Oath

2. Non-Certified
- Score 60% or more on each section of the oral exam.
- Must pass the full oral certification exam within two years.
- Sign the Interpreter's Oath

3. Certified
- Score 70% or more on each section of the oral exam and no less than 65% on either sight translation section.
- Sign the Interpreter's Oath

Candidates who do not actively pursue these milestones by registering for and participating in the required elements of the certification program to demonstrate progress may be removed from the Virginia Interpreter Roster until the required standards are met.

Note: The Certification Team retains full discretion to review all exam scores, consider a candidate's experience and demonstrated skills, and determine whether the candidate meets the qualifications required to provide interpretation services in Virginia's courts.

Transition Period for Non-Certified Interpreters Currently Serving in Virginia Courts
non-certified interpreters currently working in Virginia courts have until **January 30, 2027,** to comply with the new requirements. During this transition period, interpreter designations will be updated as candidates take the oral exam and receive their scores. Interpreters are encouraged to actively work toward certification during this time. Interpreters who do not actively pursue these milestones by registering for and participating in the required elements of the certification program to demonstrate progress may be removed from the Virginia Interpreter Roster until the required standards are met.