Court Reporter

Median hourly earnings: $17.70	**Median annual earnings: $37,400**

Occupation Description

Court Reporters use word-for-word methods and equipment to capture, store, retrieve, and transcribe pretrial and trial proceedings or other information. Duties also include operating computerized stenographic captioning equipment to provide captions of live or prerecorded broadcasts for hearing-impaired viewers.

General Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Required for Success on the Job

- Clerical
- Law and Government
- Reading Comprehension
- Oral Expression
- Selective Attention

Education and Training Needed

- Most Common Educational/Training Level: Certification earned by passing a court reporter test; on-the-job training provided after employment

A Court Reporter position requires you to pass the Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) exam. After you pass this exam and earn your certificate, the employer provides on-the-job training. The amount of on-the-job training needed varies with the type of court reporting chosen. Electronic reporters and transcribers learn their skills in the first few months, while voice reporters may need up to a year of on-the-job training.

Registered Professional Reporter Exam (RPR)
Passing the RPR exam is the first step in becoming certified. The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) administers the exam 48 days a year in computer-based format. There are four two-week testing periods. You may take the exam in January, April, June and October. In order to take the exam, you must register as a member of the NCRA which requires a fee of $125. This fee covers the cost of the exam. It is a good idea to register for the exam early because many test sites fill quickly. To register for membership, and learn more about the RPR Exam, visit NCRA online.

Testing Locations:

Pearson Professional Center
1615 L. St. NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 223-6640

Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge
1900 N. Fort Meyer Drive

Rosslyn, VA 22209
(202) 216-0313