Interpreters' Ink.

October 1st, 2026

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FALL INTO THE RIGHT LANGUAGE SERVICE

In This Issue:

- Get to know Alexa Cervantes
- Languages Offered
- You're Not Just an Interpreter — You're a Business
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Meet Alexa Cervantes, Medical and Legal Interpreter



I began my interpreting career in 2024. I had always been interested in the field, but I did not realize that interpreting was an established career path or that there was a professional title for it. After high school, I enrolled in college and began my journey toward becoming a qualified interpreter. I am truly passionate about what I do and continuously strive to improve my skills. In addition to my college coursework with Sara, I took an additional medical interpreting course, which reinforced and strengthened what I was learning. After completing my college course, I spoke with my professor and was fortunate enough to join Interpreters Inc. in 2025.

Check your answers on page 2

Languages Offered

Arabic	Karen
Burmese	Kinyarwanda
Cantonese	Laotian
Chin	Mandarin Chinese
Chuukese	Nepali
Dari	Pashto
Farsi	Russian
French	Somali
Hakha Chin	Spanish
Kachin	Swahili
Korean	Taiwanese
	Vietnamese

Can you tell the difference?

1. **A company need its employee handbook in Spanish. What service is needed?**

A. Interpretation
B. Translation
C. Transcription

2. **An interpreter helps people communicate through a video call. What type is this?**

A. On-Site
B. Remote
C. Written

3. **An audio is turned into written text. What service is this?**

A. Translation
B. Interpretation
C. Transcription



Cont. of Meet Alexa Cervantes, Medical and Legal Interpreter

Since then, I have consistently practiced, studied, and prepared for my certifications. I am especially interested in medical certification because of my educational background and experience in the medical field, but I also have a strong passion for legal interpreting. I love that every day is different and that interpreting allows me to learn something new about many different subjects. One of my favorite areas of medical interpreting is labor and delivery because I enjoy witnessing the birth of babies, and the downtime also gives me an opportunity to study and practice for my legal certification. I particularly enjoy interpreting at the juvenile courthouse because I find the terminology fascinating and appreciate learning more about the legal process. I attend hearings, continuously create vocabulary lists, and make an effort to retain new terminology that I can apply to future assignments. This has been one of the ways I have built much of my knowledge and confidence in the legal field. I once heard a quote that said, "Mastery isn't knowing everything; it's respecting how much there will always be left to learn," and I hold that close to me, especially in this field. Interpreting is a career that requires continuous learning, and I embrace that challenge. As I continue growing as an interpreter, I am incredibly excited about what the future holds. I know that with dedication, consistency, and passion, I am capable of achieving my certification goals and continuing to grow in a career that I truly love.



Need an Interpreter?

Legal, medical, court, and educational interpreting — in person or remotely by phone or video.

For emergency interpreting services, call us at (816) 761-5334 or SCAN QR Code



SCAN ME

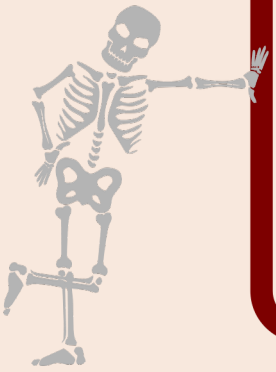
How'd You Do?

Answers:

1.) B

2.) B

3.) C



You're Not Just an Interpreter — You're a Business

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As an independent contractor, you run your own small business. Every assignment you accept, every client relationship you build, and every dollar you track is part of your enterprise. Treating your work that way — not just as a series of gigs — is what turns a good interpreter into a sustainable career. Here are a few ways to keep your "business" healthy all year long, especially when the calendar slows down.

Stay visible during slow periods. Work ebbs and flows, and quiet stretches are normal. Use them to stay top of mind: check in with your agencies and regular clients, confirm your availability, and make sure your contact info and credentials on file are current. A friendly "I'm available and ready" note keeps you first in line when assignments return.

Keep your skills sharp. Downtime is training time. Read and write in your working language daily, build vocabulary lists from recent assignments, and practice your consecutive and simultaneous modes so you don't lose your edge. The interpreters who stay ready during the quiet weeks are the ones who thrive when the calls pick back up.

MICATA

Invest in your credentials. Slow seasons are the perfect time to take an online course, attend a workshop, or prepare for your next certification. Every credential you add widens the range of assignments — and the rate — you can command.

Run your books like a pro. You are your own bookkeeper. Keep your invoices organized, track outstanding and overdue payments, follow up on what you're owed, and set aside money for taxes and leaner months. A little financial discipline now means a smoother ride when work is slow.

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Plan for the ebb and flow. Build a simple budget that accounts for slower periods, set aside an emergency cushion, and think of your quiet weeks as an investment in the busy ones ahead.

To learn more on tax information within our region, scan the QR codes above



A note from the editor...

Happy Fall! After 26 years, this season still reminds me that our profession is built on patient, steady growth — the kind that rewards everyone who keeps showing up. This issue's spotlight, Alexa Cervantes, said it best: *"Mastery isn't knowing everything; it's respecting how much there will always be left to learn."* That mindset is exactly what keeps our interpreters sharp, year after year.

Fall also brings the slower season, and I'd encourage you to treat it as an investment, not a lull. It's the perfect time to study, read in your working language, pursue a new certification, and get your books in order before year-end. The interpreters who stay ready during the quiet stretches are the ones who thrive when the calls pick back up.

And if Alexa's story resonates with you, it may be your turn. I teach the Foreign Language Interpreting program at MCC Maple Woods — a full school year, August through May, open to speakers of any language. This Spring 2027, we begin enrolling for the 2027–2028 school year. Contact me with any questions or to learn how to enroll.

As we enter the holiday season, I want to thank all of my contractors who make things happen day in and day out. You are the heart of this company, and I'm grateful to grow alongside each of you.

— Sara Gardner

What would you like to see in the next issue of Interpreters Ink? Let Us Know!

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