# ISO 20228:2026 – Legal Interpreting Standard Revised

*What the new legal interpreting draft means for your organisation*

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A revised draft international standard for legal interpreting is now open for public comment — and for language service providers, interpreters, and legal institutions, this is a development worth paying close attention to.

ISO/DIS 20228:2026, *Interpreting Services — Legal Interpreting — Requirements*, is the second edition of ISO 20228:2019. The draft is currently in its DIS (Draft International Standard) ballot stage, with the public commenting window running from **10 June to 3 August 2026**.

## What is ISO 20228 and why does it matter?

ISO 20228 establishes the principles, competence requirements, and service delivery practices for legal interpreting across all legal settings — from courtrooms and police interviews to immigration hearings, prison visits, and administrative proceedings. It covers spoken and signed language modalities, and applies to interpreters, language service providers, and the legal institutions that engage them.

If you are operating in the legal sector, or providing interpreting services into legal contexts, this standard directly shapes the professional and contractual landscape in which you work.

## What's new in the 2026 draft?

The 2026 edition is significantly expanded compared with the 2019 original. Based on the available briefing information, key developments include:

*Stronger remote interpreting requirements.* Reflecting the widespread shift to video and hybrid proceedings post-2020, the draft is expected to include clearer requirements for video remote interpreting, minimum audio and visual quality thresholds, and guidance on platform security and confidentiality. This brings ISO 20228 into closer alignment with ISO 24019 (remote interpreting) and ISO 20108/20109 (simultaneous interpreting quality and equipment).

*Expanded competence requirements.* The revised standard is expected to introduce greater specificity around interpreter competences, including trauma-informed practice, working with minors and vulnerable individuals, signed-language legal interpreting, and performance in high-risk environments such as police custody and asylum interviews.

*Greater institutional responsibilities.* Notably, the draft places obligations not only on interpreters and LSPs, but also on legal institutions themselves — including duties to provide adequate working conditions, ensure interpreters receive case information in advance, and avoid role confusion between interpreters and cultural mediators.

*More detailed procedural guidance.* Expect expanded provisions covering pre-assignment briefings, interpreter positioning, managing evidentiary accuracy, and handling the particular demands of different legal settings.

## Implications for your organisation

If your organisation provides legal interpreting services, recruits or manages legal interpreters, or supplies language services into justice, immigration, or law enforcement contexts, the finalised standard will likely require you to:

- Review and update interpreter recruitment, vetting, and assignment-matching procedures
- Document competence verification more rigorously
- Develop remote interpreting compliance protocols aligned with the wider ISO interpreting standards suite
- Revisit pre-assignment briefing and incident reporting processes

For interpreters themselves, the standard signals an expectation of continuing professional development in legal procedure, trauma-informed practice, and remote delivery.

## How to engage

The commenting window for ISO/DIS 20228:2026 closes on **3 August 2026**. LSPs with expertise in legal interpreting, signed-language services, or remote delivery are well-placed to contribute substantive feedback during this period. Contact your National Body to understand how to submit comments. In the UK, this is the British Standards Institution (BSI).

Standards only reflect the industry they are designed to serve when practitioners engage with them. This is an opportunity to shape a standard that will govern legal interpreting practice internationally for years to come.

We are committed to keeping members informed about standards developments that affect the language and localisation sector.

Let's build a stronger, more standardised industry together!

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