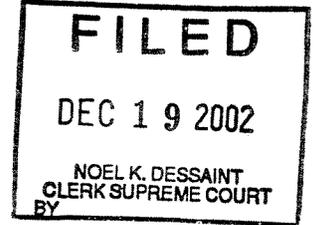


IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA



In the Matter of: )  
 )  
STANDARD CERTIFICATION )  
OF COURT REPORTERS )  
 )  
 )

Administrative Order  
No. 2002- 115

Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 32, Chapter 40, establishes temporary and standard certification for court reporters and specifies the Board of Certified Court Reporters (“Board”) shall recommend and the Supreme Court will adopt rules to implement and enforce these statutory provisions. Further, the law specifies that, absent extenuating circumstances the Board may not extend temporary certificates beyond December 31, 2002. Accordingly, on March 29, 2001, the Court adopted Arizona Code of Judicial Administration 7-206: Court Reporter Standard Certification and 7-207: Court Reporter Temporary Certification. Both code sections took effect on April 2, 2001. Code Section 7-206 requires that as part of the qualifications for standard certification, a reporter must pass the Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) examination, testing the reporter’s proficiency. This national examination consists of three proficiency legs and a written examination. In addition, Arizona law requires that reporters pass an Arizona Written Examination to qualify for standard certification. Code Section 7-206 further authorizes the Board to grant Provisional Standard Certification to reporters who hold a valid temporary certificate at the time of application if the reporter has passed at least two of the three proficiency legs and the written component of the RPR and the Arizona Written Examination; or to a reporter who has practiced for the three years immediately preceding application if the reporter has passed one of the three proficiency legs and the written component of the RPR and the Arizona Written Examination.

Court reporting is integrally related to the prompt, effective and impartial operation of the judicial system and it is necessary to ensure there is an adequate pool of qualified court reporters. Accordingly, since adoption of Code Section 7-206, the Board has monitored the progress of certified reporters in meeting the requirements for Standard Certification and has provided regular updates to the Court on this issue. The national test administrators began releasing information on the results of the November 2002 RPR examination on December 12, 2002. Complete information on all Arizona court reporters who took this examination may not be available prior to the December 31, 2002 expiration date of temporary certification. As this information is released, the Court has become aware of a limited number of court reporters with less than three years of experience, who hold temporary certification and took the November 2002 administration of the RPR examination. Of this group, some are awaiting the results of that examination, or if they have obtained the results, do not meet the years of experience and two proficiency leg requirements for Standard Provisional Certification. These reporters have documented to the Board that they registered and took the November 2002 RPR examination.

To make an orderly transition from temporary to standard certification with minimal disruption to the judicial system, it is necessary to address the certification status of the limited number of court reporters who have practiced less than three years, hold temporary certification and are consistently moving toward full compliance with certification requirements.

Now, therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that the Board may, in addition to the current provisions of Code Section 7-206(E)(3)(c)(5), grant a provisional temporary certificate, for the period of January 1, 2003 through January 31, 2003, to an applicant who holds a valid temporary certificate as of December 31, 2002, who registered and took the November 2002 administration of the RPR examination and can provide satisfactory documentation of this to the Board and who meets all other requirements for standard certification. An applicant granted provisional temporary certification pursuant to this order shall meet all other requirements of Code Section (E)(3)(c)(5)(b) and the provisions of Code Section (E)(3)(c)(5)(c) regarding the Board's authority to grant certification after January 15, 2003, are applicable.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, in addition to the current provisions of Code Section 7-206(E)(3)(c)(4), the Board may grant a Provisional Standard Certificate to a reporter who holds a valid temporary certificate as of December 31, 2002, who has passed at least one of the three required skill components and the written knowledge test of the RPR examination by December 31, 2002 and provides documentation of this to the Board by January 15, 2003 and who meets all other requirements for certification. An applicant granted Provisional Standard Certification pursuant to this order shall meet all other requirements of Code Section 7-206(E)(3)(c)(4)(b) regarding passage of the remaining components of the RPR and the provisions of Code Section 7-206(E)(3)(c)(4)(c) regarding the Board's authority to grant certification after June 30, 2004 are applicable.

Dated this 19th day of December, 2002.

CHARLES E. JONES  
Chief Justice