

Court Reporter

Capture every word said in court, live on a steno machine or from the recording. Short training, home-based work.

TYPICAL PAY

\$54,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$35k to \$75k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

1 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Courtrooms, transcription offices, home offices, broadcast captioning

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
 English matters most. Typing speed is the skill you can start building today.
- 2 Pick a route** 1 to 2 years
 Transcription: a college certificate in court transcription (Ontario recognizes programs at Durham College, Centennial College and the Ontario College of Business and Technology). Stenography: a captioning and court reporting program, such as the online diploma at NAIT (...
- 3 Build speed** Ongoing
 Stenographers train until they can write about 225 words a minute with near-perfect accuracy. Most of the program is drills, and many students take longer than the official length.
- 4 Get certified or authorized** Weeks
 Ontario transcriptionists pass the test in their program, get a security clearance and pay to join the authorized list. Alberta stenographers certify with the Alberta Shorthand Reporters Association.
- 5 First jobs** After graduation
 Courtroom monitor for a provincial government, a transcription company, or straight into freelance.

Pros and cons

- + Working from home is normal
- + Short, affordable training
- + Every day is a different case
- Stenography programs have high dropout rates
- Freelance income swings with the workload
- Long hours sitting and listening to hard testimony

Good to know

Ontario courts record everything digitally

Ontario courtrooms record proceedings on digital systems. The transcript is produced afterwards by an Authorized Court Transcriptionist working from the audio, at a per-page rate set by pr...

225 words a minute

Stenographers write on a machine with about 22 keys that types syllables, not letters. Certification tests in North America expect roughly 225 words a minute on testimony with almost no errors. Nor...

Optional boosts

Real-time stenography. Broadcast captioning. CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation). Bilingual work.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Court reporters, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Job Bank: Court reporters, requirements and certification

Authorized Court Transcriptionists for Ontario: FAQ (training, listing, transcript rates)

Ontario: Ordering a court transcript

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/court-reporter>



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