

## NCRA Professional Certifications

**Professional certification** is a designation earned by a person to assure they are adequately qualified to perform a job or tasks, and that they possess advanced knowledge of issues, standards, policies and procedures, and practices specific to their professional field. The NCRA offers a total of nine certifications and two technology-based certificates. Below is a brief description of each:

**Registered Skilled Reporter (RSR):** The RSR recognizes those stenographic professionals who are looking to validate their beginning level of competency. Created as a steppingstone credential to ultimately achieve the Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) designation, the RSR certification will offer the prestige of an NCRA certification for those early in their careers. Candidates do not need to be members of NCRA in order to take the RSR Exam. Candidates must pass three five-minute Skills Tests (SKT) that evaluate their skills in literary at 160 words per minute, jury charge at 180 words per minute, and testimony/Q&A at 200 per minute, with a 95 percent accuracy rate on each leg to pass.

**Registered Professional Reporter (RPR):** RPR stenographic court reporters are among the top contributors to the profession in terms of technology, reporting skills, and professional practices. The RPR has been offered since 1937, and many states currently accept or use the certification testing in place of a state certification or licensing exams. RPRs have passed tests requiring them to write up to 225 words per minute with a 95 percent accuracy rate.

**Registered Merit Reporter (RMR):** RMRs must hold the RPR and have shown the ability to write at speeds of up to 260 words per minute with a 95 percent accuracy rate.

**Registered Diplomat Reporter (RDR):** The RDR designates the highest level of certification available to court reporters and distinguishes high-level, seasoned reporters as members of the profession's elite.

**Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR):** The CRR recognizes a realtime reporter's knowledge of current technologies and a high proficiency of at least a 96 percent accuracy rate at speeds up to 200 words per minute. Realtime reporting instantly translates the spoken word to text, allowing for an immediate transcription of proceedings.

**Certified Realtime Captioner (CRC):** CRCs have passed a skills test and a written exam. The CRC tests for competence and provides quality education to those who are interested in entering the captioning field.

**Certified Reporter Instructor (CRI):** CRIs are educators, administrators, and reporters who are NCRA Associate members and have attended a 13-hour NCRA Council on Approved Student Education-sponsored session designed to expand their level of knowledge for becoming more effective realtime reporting instructors. CRIs are knowledgeable about the learning process, versed in the development of course syllabi and lesson plans, and are able to interact through role play of various courtroom scenarios.

**Certified Legal Video Specialist (CLVS):** CLVSs hold a high level of skill and understanding of all aspects of video deposition recording, court proceedings, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and deposition best practices.