



IRISH TRANSLATORS' and INTERPRETERS' ASSOCIATION
CUMANN AISTRITHEOIRÍ agus ATEANGAIRÍ NA hÉIREANN

ITIA Certified Legal Translator

The Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association (ITIA) is the only professional body on the island of Ireland representing the interests of practising translators. It has introduced a procedure whereby a Professional Member of the association can apply to become an 'ITIA Certified Legal Translator'. An ITIA Certified Legal Translator is a translator whose work/main area of work involves the translation and certification of legal and official documentation and who has fulfilled the criteria as laid down by the ITIA Certification sub-committee.

Why is there a need for certified translation of documents?

The enlargement of the European Union and freedom of movement between the Member States has created an ever-increasing demand for reliable communication. The provision of certified translation services is an integral part of such communication between countries, aiming specifically to cater for the needs of EU citizens who require various legal documents translated from or into their native language.

Furthermore, the cultural and social changes which are taking place in Ireland have produced an ever-growing demand for the translation of a wide range of languages, including those spoken in Central and Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. This fact emphasizes even further the need to establish a framework within which qualified translators can pursue a career as a Certified Legal Translator.

Why ITIA Certified Legal Translator?

At present, there is no state regulation or formal recognition of Certified Legal Translators in Ireland. The aim of the ITIA in offering its members the opportunity to apply for ITIA Certified Legal Translator status is, therefore, to

- achieve formal recognition for the profession and the status of Certified Legal Translators by the Irish legal system, Government departments, state institutions, foreign embassies, the business community etc.
- set up a career path for Certified Legal Translators, recognised by the legal system, government departments, state institutions, etc.
- promote standards of professional excellence through the assessment element of the approval procedure and through offering continuing professional development in the area of Certified Translation

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What type of document requires certified translation?

Documents that may require certified translation include:

- Birth / Marriage / Death Certificates
- Divorce or separation papers
- Maintenance or child support papers
- Adoption papers
- Custody papers
- Notarial deeds
- Court rulings
- Diplomas and Degrees
- Affidavits
- Statements
- Medical statements
- Agreements
- Contracts
- Memoranda and Articles of Association
- Official correspondence
- Any other document requested by authorities, solicitors, companies or individual customers.

A Certified Translation always includes either a **statement / certifying clause** or a separate **certification page** which confirms that the translation is a true, accurate and correct rendering of either the *original* document or of a *certified copy* of the original document. An ITIA Certified Legal Translator may not certify a document that has been translated from, for example, a photocopy, a fax copy or a scanned copy of the original.

An ITIA Certified Legal Translator may only certify his/her own translation in the language combination for which he/she is certified. ITIA Certified Legal Translators are also personally responsible for the accuracy of the translation. Any translator who is found to wilfully mistranslate or inaccurately translate a text may be charged with negligence, perjury or even with contempt of court.

A Certified Translation should state **what the document is** (e.g. Birth Cert), **for whom** the translation has being carried out and the **language** from which the translation has been carried out. It must be **signed** and **dated** by the translator, and **stamped** using both an embossed stamp and the ink stamp with the translator's name, address and contact details.