



Cindy Weichmann

I had never heard of court reporting until a cousin mentioned a school opening in her area, which was having an open house. I was a senior in high school and planning on becoming a teacher, but after attending the open house, I was fascinated by this new career opportunity. I signed up and began going to night school in my senior year. If I had it to do over again, I would have gone full-time as it took me quite a few years to become an actual working reporter.

I moved to Texas when I was 20 and in my 160s for speed and decided to attend school fulltime. Six months later I was ready to take the Texas CSR (Certified Shorthand Reporter). I am not a good test taker, so I didn't pass the first two times I took it. I decided to take a break as I was working as a legal secretary and making pretty good money. I did this for 2 years and then a friend talked me into taking the test as she had her own firm and needed help. I grabbed my machine out of the closet where it had been sitting, and off I went to Austin, Texas. Lo and behold, I finally passed. That was back in 1982.

I worked in Texas for 12 or 13 years as a freelancer and, in 1994, moved back to my home state of New Jersey to work with a friend who had a firm in Philadelphia. I loved working in the city. My best friend from Houston, Tracy Binder, was living in Rapid City, South Dakota, at the time; and I came out to visit her. Something told me this was where I was supposed to be, so three months later I moved here, much to the chagrin of my family.

I was a freelancer here for many years and had filled in at court a lot and enjoyed it, so after many years doing that, I applied for a job as an official and began working for Judge Merton Tice in September of 2008. I should mention that it was my

WHY I CHOSE COURT REPORTING

husband who talked me into applying for an official job; and, unfortunately, he was killed in a car accident right before I found out I got the job.

Since then, I have worked with two fantastic judges, Judge Mary Thorstenson and Judge Robert Gusinsky. I have learned a lot in this job and continue to learn new things daily. I really love what I do and love all the people around me. I love learning about different topics, and the things we get to hear and learn about amaze me all the time.

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