



Tammy Stolle

Why did I become a court reporter? Okay, I'm 36 years into this career and probably have the same answer that most people have when asked why they chose their career: "I guess I needed to do something, and this sounded good." But I am grateful to have chosen this because I would not change anything about my career path.

Court Reporting has given me so much more than I probably deserve. I have made a great living. I was able to be a stay-at-home mom when my kids were little, and we are in high demand. Freelancing gave me a flexible schedule so that I could be at home with my boys most of the time when they were younger. A court reporter's salary and income potential are phenomenal, considering I got my degree in less than 3 years. The demand for court reporters means that you can literally get a job anywhere. It really has given me more than I can give back, that goes without saying.

I was a freelance reporter for 31 years and now am an official reporter. I love them both for different reasons. Freelancing was flexible and fun. I traveled many miles, met so many people, and learned about a vast number of topics that I couldn't begin to list. Having a home office was challenging, but it was also convenient to be able to throw a load of laundry in during the day or clean out the dishwasher. Being an official reporter has been vastly different. I have learned so much more about the criminal justice system, worked with amazing people, and have an actual schedule every day. Getting paid for holidays isn't anything to complain about either!

Court Reporters hear something different every single day. It keeps you from becoming bored and stagnant in your day-to-day job, and I can say it is truly fun

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and rewarding for the most part! You cannot make up the stuff you hear in depositions or a courtroom. It is different and new every day!

If you have thoughts of becoming a court reporter, just do it! I promise you the rewards will come to you tenfold! And, hey, people think our skill is like magic, and it pretty much is.

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