

# How Can Verbatim Transcription Impact Legal Outcomes



March 6, 2024  
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The integrity of legal records relies on precise, word-for-word documentation **because small errors in these legal transcriptions can have major consequences.** Depositions, law enforcement interviews, and attorney-client conversations—when handled carelessly, become unreliable or dangerous if the transcription isn't accurate. This is where verbatim transcription for the legal industry saves the day.

In this article, you'll learn how verbatim transcription:

- **Is essential for Legal Precision:** Verbatim transcription is indispensable for capturing every detail in legal communications, ensuring records are accurate and comprehensive. This meticulous documentation guards against misunderstandings and legal errors, particularly in sensitive cases where precise language matters.
- **Benefits to Legal System Integrity:** Accurate transcriptions uphold the justice system's transparency and accountability, providing a reliable record for evidence review, appeals, and judicial decisions. They facilitate access to historical records, improving legal research efficiency and case preparation.
- **Transcription Service Providers Are Not All The Same:** The choice of a transcription provider is critical. Factors like experience, cost-effectiveness, security, and the ability to meet legal requirements are key. A reputable service, such as Ditto Transcripts, guarantees accuracy, compliance, and quality customer service, underscoring the importance of quality transcription in legal contexts.

## What Is Verbatim Legal Transcription?

**Verbatim transcription** means transcribing every word accurately, with no paraphrasing or errors allowed. It captures human dialogues word-for-word: every utterance, stutter, "uh-huh," sideways comment, non-verbal cues, and powerful pause is documented verbatim.

Now, understandably, verbatim transcription takes more time and costs more to do. Transcribers need sharp ears and sharper focus when transcribing verbatim. It makes some people question why a client would bother with it in the first place.

Well, in sensitive contexts like law enforcement, **precision means protection.** An inaccurate clinical record could impede care, much like an erroneous legal testimony could lead to the perversion of the law.

Verbatim transcripts serve as the truest copy of the recording—aside from the recording itself—and give an accurate and comprehensive retelling of what was said, who said it, and *how* it was said. These tiny, seemingly inconsequential details can offer deep insight to help lawyers or paralegals satisfactorily resolve their cases.

## Other Common Types of Transcription

Aside from verbatim transcription, below are some of the most common transcriptions that can be applied to many industries.

Types of Transcription	Description
Intelligent (Cleaned up verbatim) Verbatim Transcription	Intelligent transcription, along with light editing and polishing of speech that omits fillers or errors to enhance flow and clarity for the reader.
Partial Transcription	Selective sections, portions, or highlights of recordings transcribed based on interests, relevance, or needs.
Summary Transcription	Condensed overview summarizing the main discussion threads, topics covered, key points raised, conclusions reached and highlights.
Time-stamped Transcription	Indexing of recording by inserting time-codes and tags to identify and timestamp important moments within audio for quick access.

## Impact Of Verbatim Transcription In The Legal Industry

**Transcriptions have brought many benefits to the legal and law enforcement field.**

Here are the notable ones.

### Accuracy of Court Records

Thanks to stenographers and legal transcriptionists, verbatim transcripts become the official court record and serve as the definitive account of everything stated and decided in court. Without precise documentation, legal review and appeals would prove far more complex.

Verbatim transcripts also remove doubt and provide all parties with a trustworthy and authoritative reference. For example, attorneys can cite transcript passages to prove or disprove claims when evidentiary issues arise in complex cases. Similarly, judges can recall the exact phrasing to issue rulings. Over time, these records further establish helpful case history and precedent.

### Accountability In The Justice System

Transparency and accountability are cornerstones of an ethical legal system, and verbatim transcripts promote both ideals by documenting court proceedings word-for-word. These records hold all parties accountable by capturing exchanges, testimony, judgments, and more in an authoritative reference.

For instance, lawyers can rely on the level of detail to challenge questionable conduct or procedural mistakes. Likewise, judges and staff know that transcripts will preserve their actions for review. Verbatim transcripts motivate all stakeholders to uphold integrity and fairness standards throughout trials and hearings.

### Evidence Review

Thorough evidence review is crucial for appeals and precedent establishment. Lawyers can carefully scrutinize testimony, judgments, objections, and more with word-for-word documentation. They assess exchanges, search for procedural issues, and identify subtle yet impactful statements.

Without reliable transcripts, constructing arguments around evidentiary issues proves far more precarious. This is why accurate verbatim transcripts are required in these instances: the word-for-word conversion, including hesitations and false starts, removes ambiguity and paints a fuller picture of the encounter.

### Efficiency With Transcript Repository Access

Past trials and hearings hold invaluable insights—though accessing this knowledge once meant tireless digging through recordings. Thankfully, searchable repositories are now available, and they neatly package these transcripts for easy discovery.

For instance, paralegals can quickly research precedents using keywords rather than listening to countless hours of audio. The best systems even employ advanced software to identify relevant passages and surface helpful excerpts. So, rather than reinventing the wheel in each case, your firm can build upon collective knowledge.

### Cost Savings

Verbatim transcription, or transcription itself, might seem like an unnecessary expense for legal proceedings. Some firms might decide to cut corners, hire freelancers, or settle for the lowest

bidder. Or maybe they settle for **86%-accurate** AI transcription solutions that are fast, cheap, and easy to get. These firms claim to save their clients thousands of dollars yearly from these options.

#### With that, I ask: Can you put a price on transcription accuracy?

Misinterpreted evidence, inaccurate representation of witness testimonies, compromised legal strategies and arguments, wasted time and resources, damage to credibility, risks of litigation, and the potential for wrongful convictions or acquittals—these are the consequences of incorrect transcription.

Any one of these consequences can cost law firms exponentially more than what they saved on getting cheap, low-quality AI legal transcription. And these aren't even theoretical; all of these issues *have* happened in one form or another.

So, I ask you again: can you really put a price on transcription accuracy?

## Factors To Consider When Choosing The Right Verbatim Legal Transcription Service Provider

There's no point in looking forward to the benefits of legal transcription if you can't *find* the right provider. So, here are some of the factors you need to look for when choosing your transcription partner.

### Affordability

Choosing a legal transcription service that employs shady tactics like hidden fees and discretionary charges is a quick way to rack up expenses.

Reliable transcription companies meet their clients' transcription needs quickly and accurately without charging exorbitant prices. They provide costs upfront and are willing to contact clients if the current pricing models don't match the required work. Additionally, reliable legal transcription services often allow clients to pay for service as is without committing to long-term contracts.

### Experience

Some companies may offer low prices that reflect their lack of experience, and legal professionals can sometimes unknowingly fall for this trap. Transcripts from such providers are inaccurate and low-quality, as they're not well-versed in legalese and jargon.

Remember, a reputable transcription company with over a decade of legal experience, like Ditto Transcripts, will never compromise on the quality of your legal transcripts. We offer accurate services with fast turnaround times and can handle any type of legal document or audio file. You can request a sample transcription to assess the quality of our service at any time.

### Flexibility And Expanded Services

Customization and flexibility are essential considerations when selecting a legal transcription service, as different legal professions have different transcription requirements.

This can include the ability to scale and meet changing demands, transcribe different types of audio files from different sources, convert transcripts to specific file formats, add digital signatures, speaker labels, and time stamps, and accommodate rush or bulk jobs. The service provider can also offer expansions like translation services to improve client convenience.

### Confidentiality And Security Measures

CJIS compliance is a mark of a reputable and secure transcription company; not every transcription provider can attain compliance with the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services, as the division requires passing security guidelines above and beyond typical security requirements.

### Ability To Certify Transcripts

The use of legal transcriptions from depositions, custody hearings, conference calls, client meetings, witness statements, even interviews, and other law enforcement transcription documents is popular in legal proceedings. Furthermore, transcripts are admissible in court and are often submitted as evidence.

However, transcriptions submitted to the court require certification—meaning your transcriptionist must be able to certify their transcripts. Transcript certification has strict requirements, including the transcriber being an American resident with the capacity to appear in open court and testify under oath. Offshore and automated transcription services, therefore, cannot certify transcripts.

## Top-of-the-line Customer Service

Transcription work doesn't end with accurate transcripts or being well-versed in legal terminology. Clients may have follow-up questions or request additions or corrections if necessary.

This is why looking for a transcription provider with great customer service is crucial. Ditto can guarantee prompt response times via multiple communication channels so you don't get left on hold or your calls don't stay unanswered. You can check our reviews from past customers or ask us for any client references.

## Why Choose Ditto Transcripts For Your Legal Transcriptions?

We understand that precision and accuracy are crucial when handling sensitive legal documents.

**Since 2010, Ditto Transcripts has specialized in converting audio and video files into written records for the legal industry.**

Unlike automated services, experienced Ditto professionals guarantee >99% accuracy by combining expertise with strict quality assurance procedures.

We implement stringent protocols and systems aligned with compliance standards like CJIS and FINRA to safeguard sensitive client data, especially for legal use.

### Our Services Feature:

- Specialized expertise in legal transcription, achieving 99%+ accuracy
- Our human transcriptionists are experts with industry-specific terminology
- Thorough quality assurance procedures
- Fast turnarounds for rushed projects
- Transcript certification for court use
- Comprehensive security reinforcing transcription integrity
- **CJIS and FINRA compliance for data protection**
- Industry-leading customer service

## Our Lines Are Open For Any And All Questions

Why compromise on quality when Ditto Transcripts delivers top-tier quality at budget-friendly rates? Our accurate, affordable, and accessible audio transcription services check all the boxes. Contact us today to learn more, ask about our offerings, and take advantage of our free trial with no strings attached.

*Ditto Transcripts is a FINRA, HIPAA- and CJIS-compliant, Denver, Colorado-based transcription company that provides fast, accurate, and affordable transcription services for businesses and agencies of all sizes. Call (720) 287-3710 today for a free quote, and ask about our free five-day trial.*

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Trusted by Professionals.

### Where to find us

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### Primary industries served

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### Certified professionals

Security and accuracy matters.  
We are CJIS- and HIPAA-compliant.

### We're looking for

professionals who can also be personable.

