

Dover New Hampshire Police Department

Legal Bureau

Witness Information

If you have received a subpoena, please call 24 to 48 hours prior to the Court date to insure the case is still going forward on the scheduled date.

DEPOSITION PREPARATION TIPS

- Chronologically review the facts of the case.
- Be sure you have informed your attorney of all matters about the incident.
- Expect the opponent's attorney to do most or all of the questioning. Your attorney will object when it is necessary.
- Listen to each question carefully. If you do not understand the question, do not guess at its meaning, simply state you do not understand.
- Think about your answer; do not blurt out answers. Be cautious of a series of questions in quick succession that intend to lead you to the answer your opponent desires. Answer thoughtfully at your own pace.
- Above all, tell the truth. You will be under oath and should avoid giving in to the temptation to fill in gaps of information. Do not guess. Should you want to correct an earlier answer, simply indicate your desire to do so. The attorney will assist you.
- If you are asked, "Did you speak with your attorney about testifying today?" answer "yes." There is nothing wrong with speaking with your attorney about testifying. If the question is, "Did your attorney tell you what to say?" the correct answer is, "he told me to tell the truth." Other than that, your attorney will not tell you what to say.
- While testifying, it is preferable that you not seek guidance from your attorney. You must answer the question as best you can. If your attorney feels a question is improper, an objection will be stated.
- A common technique of adverse attorneys is to remain silent after your answer. This is frequently done in the hope that you will feel compelled to add more information. It can be damaging information. Therefore, resist the temptation to add information and to fill silences. Never volunteer an answer.
- Avoid discussing your case and an aspect of your testimony with anyone other than your attorney. Casual conversation about your case can be damaging.
- During the deposition you may be given documents, diagrams, photographs, or other items to identify. Be sure to examine such items carefully to see that they accurately reflect what they intend to reflect before you agree to their accuracy.