

## **Preparing Evidence for the Videoconference**

1. **No later than 5 business days before the hearing**, counsel and/or pro se parties shall exchange any and all exhibits, which must be bates-stamped. The parties must have a substantive, good faith telephone conference to address stipulations and objections to the admissibility of any exhibits. If there are objections to the admissibility of any exhibits, the party raising the objection shall identify the exhibit by bates-stamped numbers and identify the ground(s) of any objection. Such objections shall be filed with the Clerk.
2. After the substantive, good faith telephone conference and **no later than 5 business days before the hearing**, the parties are to pre-mark the bates-stamped exhibits that they intend to use during the hearing, provide a set of the exhibits to the other party and the witness(es) and mail 2 hard copies (one for the Judge and one for the Clerk) of the exhibits and the filed objections to the Court for use at the hearing.

## **Preparing Witnesses for the Videoconference**

1. Pursuant to current COVID-19 CDC guidelines and orders from all levels of government, all participants must abide by social distancing requirements and limit in-person contact. As such, witnesses do not need to be present with the attorneys or self-represented parties during the videoconference hearing and it is preferred that such witnesses participate in the videoconference hearing remotely from their own home or office.
2. Each party must arrange for a notary or other person qualified to administer an oath to swear in their witness(es) in accordance with Administrative Order of the Supreme Court 20-23.
3. In the event the rule of sequestration is invoked, the witnesses will be instructed to hang up from the videoconference and counsel or self-represented party will be responsible for contacting the witness when it is time for their testimony.
4. The witness must be provided copies of all pre-marked, bates-stamped exhibits prior to the hearing.
5. The witness shall be instructed not to look or refer to any other document or device during his or her testimony.
6. Counsel and/or self-represented party is responsible for providing these instructions to any witnesses and ensuring their compliance.
7. Witness(es) are discouraged from being in the same physical space as the attorney or self-represented party unless safe to do so. However, in the event a witness or party testifying is in the same physical space as the attorney or pro se party questioning the witness, the participants should be socially distant and the camera shall be directed at the witness. The attorney or self-represented party may not assist the witness with answers in any way, including but not limited to, gestures, notes, or facial expressions, or otherwise impact or influence the witness' testimony "off camera." Please note, using multiple devices in close proximity will cause "feedback" and may disrupt your videoconference hearing.