

General Rules Relating to Domestic Relations Matters

Rule 1930.3

Testimony by Electronic Means before the Support Master

1. No testimony by electronic means shall be permitted except by court order issued prior to the hearing. All Motions for testimony by electronic means shall be filed at least 30 days prior to a hearing with the Prothonotary and forwarded to the Judge assigned to hear support matters. Pa.R.C.P.1930.3 shall apply. A copy of the request shall be served upon the Domestic Relations Office and the opposing party or opposing counsel of record and a Certificate of Service shall be filed with the Motion.

2. Motions for testimony by electronic means shall state with particularity the relief requested, the basis for the request and shall identify whether the parties agree to the relief requested in the Motion. Any party opposing a Motion for testimony by electronic means shall file written objections within 5 calendar days of receipt of service of the Motion. Objections shall state with particularity the reason for the objections. The Motion shall be decided without hearing or argument, upon the Court's review of the Motion and any Objections timely filed.

3. The Petition shall include the telephone number where the Petitioner shall be contacted during the hearing. The Domestic Relations Office shall have the discretion to impose a fee for long distance telephone services which shall be paid before hearing.

4. The equipment used by the witness must be capable of and actually produce clear transmission satisfactory to the Master. The Master shall have the authority to terminate the testimony and grant one continuance for the taking of the testimony if the equipment used by the witness does not satisfactorily transmit. If the equipment function is unsatisfactory to the Master at the continued hearing, the requesting party shall have forfeited the entitlement to offer electronic testimony.

5. The witness to be examined by electronic means shall be available and ready to be

sworn and begin testimony immediately upon the case being called. Parties testifying by electronic means shall be sworn in by the Court Reporter present at the hearing. Experts and other third-party witnesses shall be sworn in by a person duly authorized in that jurisdiction to administer the oath to the witness. The party proffering the electronic testimony shall be responsible to secure the presence of the person authorized to administer oaths. Experts and other third-party witnesses shall produced satisfactory photo identification to the person who administers the oath. Not less than 5 days before the hearing, the name of this individual and their qualifications to administer the oath in their jurisdiction shall be delivered to the Domestic Relations Office and the other party or their attorney.

6. True and correct copies of any and all documents to be relied upon by either party during their electronic testimony shall be marked as exhibits and exchanged by the parties or their attorneys at least five (5) days before the hearing with copies provided to Domestic Relations for the Master's use.