



# Understanding Depositions

A deposition is a meeting where a witness answers questions under oath before trial. Either side may depose the parties or other witnesses to learn what they know. If you are the one being deposed, good preparation makes it far more manageable than most people expect.

## What to expect

- 1 Sworn Testimony.** The witness takes an oath to tell the truth, just as in a courtroom.
- 2 Court Reporter.** A court reporter records every word. The deposition may also be video recorded or held remotely.
- 3 Who Attends.** Attorneys for both parties are present, and the other party may attend. The judge is not there.
- 4 Preparation.** If you are being deposed, we will have a call with you beforehand to review likely topics and walk you through what to expect.
- 5 Breaks.** The witness can ask for a break, though a pending question generally must be answered first.
- 6 Transcript.** A written transcript is prepared afterward and can be used later in the case, including at trial.

## Tips for answering

**Listen Carefully.** Let the attorney finish the question, then pause before you answer.

**Answer Only the Question.** Keep answers short and truthful. Do not volunteer extra information.

**It Is Okay Not to Know.** If you do not know or remember, say so. Do not guess.

**Ask for Clarity.** If a question is confusing, ask for it to be repeated or rephrased.

## What to keep in mind

Feeling nervous is normal. We will prepare you and be there with you.

Stay calm and polite, even if a question feels unfair.

Your attorney may object to a question. Wait for guidance before answering.

Honesty matters most. Untrue or inconsistent answers can seriously harm your case.

This guide provides general information about depositions in Georgia family law matters and is not legal advice about your specific case. Your attorney will explain how depositions apply to your situation.

## YOUR ROLE

If you are being deposed, set aside time to prepare with us. If we are deposing someone else, share the topics and documents you think we should cover.

## QUESTIONS?

As always, all questions and requests should be directed to the team via email to [team@pepitone.law](mailto:team@pepitone.law).