

DOCUMENT 7

COURTROOM OBJECTIONS – PRACTICAL APPLICATION

OBJECTIVE

Objections are used to protect the record and ensure that evidence is admitted properly. They are not opportunities to argue with the witness, the prosecutor, or the court.

LD CONTEXT

The Liberty Dialogues focuses on proof rather than assumption. Proper objections help prevent assumptions, speculation, and unsupported conclusions from becoming evidence.

WHEN TO STAND

Stand immediately when the improper question is asked. Speak clearly. Use as few words as possible.

EXAMPLE #1 – HEARSAY

Prosecutor: 'What did another officer tell you?' Defendant: 'Objection, hearsay.'

EXAMPLE #2 – SPECULATION

Witness: 'I think he was doing this because...' Defendant: 'Objection, speculation.'

EXAMPLE #3 – LEGAL CONCLUSION

Officer: 'He was required by law to...' Defendant: 'Objection, calls for a legal conclusion.'

EXAMPLE #4 – ASSUMES FACTS NOT IN EVIDENCE

Prosecutor: 'When the defendant violated the law...' Defendant: 'Objection, assumes facts not in evidence.'

IF THE JUDGE ASKS WHY

Give one short sentence only. Example: 'The witness is repeating information not personally observed.'

IF OVERRULED

Judge: 'Overruled.' Defendant: 'Understood, Your Honor.'

Sit down. Do not argue. The objection has been preserved.

COMMON MISTAKE #1

Explaining the entire law of evidence after making an objection.

COMMON MISTAKE #2

Arguing with the judge after a ruling.

COMMON MISTAKE #3

Objecting to every question and losing credibility with the jury.

HOW OBJECTIONS AFFECT THE JURY

Jurors often view calm, disciplined objections as professional and credible. Frequent or emotional objections can have the opposite effect.

FINAL PRINCIPLE

The purpose of an objection is not to win an argument. The purpose is to preserve fairness, protect the record, and require that evidence be properly presented.