

## **DOCUMENT 24**

# **HOW TO USE THE MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE**

## **PURPOSE**

A Motion for Continuance requests additional time to prepare. Its purpose is fairness and meaningful preparation, not delay for its own sake.

## **WHEN TO FILE**

File as soon as the need becomes apparent. Waiting until the last minute can reduce credibility unless circumstances justify the delay.

## **GOOD REASONS FOR A CONTINUANCE**

• Newly discovered evidence • Incomplete preparation • Recently received disclosures • Missing witnesses • Need to review rules or evidence

## **POOR REASONS FOR A CONTINUANCE**

• General nervousness • Lack of effort • Delay for strategic reasons only • Failure to prepare when adequate time existed

## **EXAMPLE HEARING**

Judge: 'Why do you need more time?' Defendant: 'Your Honor, I am appearing pro per. I need additional time to review evidence, prepare witness examination, and understand the applicable procedures. I am requesting a brief continuance so that I may prepare properly.'

## **IF GRANTED**

Thank the Court and use the additional time productively.

## **IF DENIED**

Defendant: 'Your Honor, I respectfully note my objection and request that it be preserved for the record.'

## **LD APPLICATION**

Preparation is central to the Liberty Dialogues. A continuance may help create the conditions necessary for disciplined examination rather than reactive participation.

## **FINAL PRINCIPLE**

The value of a continuance lies not merely in obtaining more time, but in using that time to prepare effectively.