

**§ 502.203 Depositions upon oral examination.**

(a) *Notice of examination.* (1) A party desiring to take the deposition of any person upon oral examination shall give reasonable notice in writing to such person and to every other party to the action, pursuant to subpart H of this part. The notice shall state the time and place for taking the deposition and the name and address of each person to be examined, if known, and, if the name is not known, a general description sufficient to identify the person or the particular class or group to which the person belongs. The notice shall also contain a statement of the matters concerning which each witness will testify.

(2) The attendance of witnesses may be compelled by subpoena as provided in subpart I of this part. If a subpoena duces tecum is to be served on the person to be examined, the designation of the materials to be produced as set forth in the subpoena shall be attached to or included in the notice.

(3) All errors and irregularities in the notice or subpoena for taking of a deposition are waived unless written objection is promptly served upon the party giving the notice.

(4) Examination and cross-examination of deponents may proceed as permitted at the hearing under the provisions of § 502.154.

(b) *Record of examination; oath; objections.* (1) The officer before whom the deposition is to be taken shall put the witness on oath and shall personally, or by someone acting under the direction and in his or her presence, record the testimony of the witness. The testimony shall be taken stenographically and transcribed unless the parties agree otherwise. All objections made at the time of the examination to the qualifications of the officer taking it, or to the evidence presented, or to the conduct of any party, and any other objection to the proceedings, shall be noted by the officer upon the deposition. Evidence objected to shall be taken subject to the objections. Objections shall be resolved at a discovery conference called under § 502.201(f) or, if circumstances warrant, by such other procedure as the presiding officer may establish.

(2) In lieu of participating in the oral examination, parties served with notice of taking a deposition may transmit written interrogatories to the officer, who shall propound them to the witness and record the answers verbatim.

(3) The parties may stipulate or the presiding officer may upon motion order that a deposition be taken by telephone or other reliable device.

(c) *Motion to terminate or limit examination.* At any time during the taking of the deposition, on motion of any party or of the deponent and upon a showing that the examination is being conducted in bad faith or in such manner as unreasonably to annoy, embarrass, or oppress the deponent or party, the presiding officer may order the officer conducting the examination to cease forthwith from taking the deposition, or may limit the scope and manner of the taking of the deposition as provided in paragraph (b) of this section. If the order made terminates the examination, it shall be resumed thereafter only upon the order of the presiding officer. Upon demand of the objecting party or deponent, the taking of the deposition shall be suspended for the time necessary to make a motion for an order. Rulings under this paragraph shall be issued by the presiding officer at a discovery conference called under § 502.201(f) or, if circumstances warrant, by such other procedure as the presiding officer may establish.

(d) *Submission to witness; changes; signing.* When the testimony is fully transcribed, the deposition shall be submitted to the witness for examination and shall be read to or by the witness, unless such examination and reading are waived by the witness and by the parties. Any changes in form or substance which the witness desires to make shall be entered upon the deposition by the officer with a statement of the reasons given by the witness for making them. The deposition shall then be signed by the witness unless the parties by stipulation waive the signing or the witness is ill or cannot be found or refuses to sign. If the deposition is not signed by the witness, the officer shall sign it and state on the record the fact of the waiver or of the illness or absence of the witness or the

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fact of the refusal to sign, together with the reason, if any, given therefor, and the deposition may then be used as fully as though signed, unless upon objection, the presiding officer holds that the reasons given for the refusal to sign require rejection of the deposition in whole or in part.

(e) *Certification and filing by officer; copies, notice of filing.* (1) The officer taking the deposition shall certify on the deposition that the witness was duly sworn by the officer and that the deposition is a true record of the testimony given by the witness. The officer shall then securely seal the deposition in an envelope endorsed with the title of the action and marked "Deposition of [here insert name of witness]" and shall promptly file it with the Secretary of the Commission by hand or registered or certified mail.

(2) Interested parties shall make their own arrangements with the officer taking the deposition for copies of the testimony and the exhibits.

(3) The party taking the deposition shall give prompt notice of its filing to all other parties.

(f) *Effect of errors and irregularities.* Errors and irregularities in the manner in which the testimony is transcribed or the deposition is prepared, signed, certified, sealed, endorsed, transmitted, filed, or otherwise dealt with by the officer under this section and § 502.204 are waived unless a motion to suppress the deposition or some part thereof is made within ten (10) days of filing. [Rule 203.]

[49 FR 44369, Nov. 6, 1984; 49 FR 47394, Dec. 4, 1984, as amended at 58 FR 27211, May 7, 1993]

## § 502.204 Depositions upon written interrogatories.

(a) *Serving interrogatories; notice.* A party desiring to take the deposition of any person upon written interrogatories shall serve them upon every other party pursuant to subpart H of this part with a notice stating the name and address of the person who is to answer them and the name or descriptive title and address of the officer before whom the deposition is to be taken. Within ten (10) days thereafter, a party so served may serve cross interrogatories upon the party proposing to take the deposition. All errors and

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irregularities in the notice are waived unless written objection is promptly served upon the party giving the notice.

(b) *Officer to take responses and prepare record.* A copy of the notice and copies of all interrogatories served shall be delivered by the party taking the deposition to the officer designated in the notice, who shall proceed promptly in the manner provided by paragraphs (b), (d) and (e) of § 502.203 to take the testimony of the witness in response to the interrogatories and to prepare, certify, and file or mail the deposition, attaching thereto the copy of the notice and the interrogatories received by him or her.

(c) *Notice of filing.* When the deposition is filed, the party taking it shall promptly give notice thereof to all other parties. [Rule 204.]

## § 502.205 Interrogatories to parties.

(a) *Service; answers.* (1) Any party may serve, pursuant to subpart H of this part, upon any other party written interrogatories to be answered by the party served or, if the party served is a public or private corporation or a partnership or association, by any officer or agent, who shall furnish such information as is available to the party. Any party desiring to serve interrogatories as provided by this section must comply with the applicable provisions of § 502.201 and make service thereof on all parties to the proceeding.

(2) Each interrogatory shall be answered separately and fully in writing under oath, unless it is objected to, in which event the reasons for objection shall be stated in lieu of an answer. The answers are to be signed by the person making them, and the objections signed by the attorney making them.

(3) The party upon whom the interrogatories have been served shall serve a copy of the answers, and objections if any, on all parties to the proceeding under the schedule established pursuant to § 502.201. The presiding officer, for good cause, may limit service of answers.

(b) *Objections to interrogatories.* All objections to interrogatories shall be resolved at the conference or meeting