

RULES OF SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA
PART FOUR
PRETRIAL PROCEDURES, DEPOSITIONS AND PRODUCTION AT TRIAL

Rule 4:5. Depositions Upon Oral Examination.

(a) *When Depositions May Be Taken.* — After commencement of the action, any party may take the testimony of any person, including a party, by deposition upon oral examination. Leave of court, granted with or without notice, must be obtained only if the plaintiff seeks to take a deposition before the expiration of the period within which a defendant may file a responsive pleading under Rule 3:8, except that leave is not required (1) if a defendant has served a notice of taking deposition, or (2) if special notice is given as provided in subdivision (b)(2) of this Rule. The attendance of witnesses may be compelled by subpoena. The deposition of a person confined in prison may be taken only by leave of court on such terms as the court prescribes.

(a1) *Taking of Depositions.* — (i) Party Depositions. A deposition of a party, or any witness designated under Rule 4:5(b)(6) to testify on behalf of a party, shall be taken in the county or city in which suit is pending, in an adjacent county or city, at a place upon which the parties agree, or at a place that the court in such suit may, for good cause, designate. Good cause may include the expense or inconvenience of a non-resident party defendant appearing in one of the locations specified in this subsection. The restrictions as to parties set forth in this subdivision (a1)(i) shall not apply where no responsive pleading has been filed or an appearance otherwise made.

(ii) Non-party Witness Depositions. Unless otherwise provided by the law of the jurisdiction where a non-party witness resides, a deposition of a non-party witness shall be taken in the county or city where the non-party witness resides, is employed, or has a principal place of business; at a place upon which the witness and the parties to the litigation agree; or at a place that the court may, for good cause, designate.

(iii) Taking Depositions Outside the State. Within another state, or within a territory or insular possession subject to the dominion of the United States, or in a foreign country, depositions may be taken (1) on notice before a person authorized to administer oaths in the place in which the examination is held, either by the law thereof or, where applicable, the law of the United States, or (2) before a person appointed or commissioned by the court in which the action is pending, and such a person shall have the power by virtue of such appointment or commission to administer any necessary oath and take testimony, or (3) pursuant to a letter rogatory. A commission or letter rogatory shall be issued upon application and notice and on terms that are just and appropriate. It is not requisite to the issuance of a commission or a letter rogatory that the taking of the deposition in any other manner is impracticable or inconvenient. A notice or commission may designate the person before whom the deposition is to be taken either by name or descriptive title. A commission or letter rogatory may be addressed "To the Appropriate Authority in (here name the state, territory, or country)." Witnesses may be compelled to

appear and testify at depositions taken outside this state by process issued and served in accordance with the law of the jurisdiction where the deposition is taken or, where applicable, the law of the United States. Upon motion, the courts of this State shall issue a commission or letter rogatory requesting the assistance of the courts or authorities of the foreign jurisdiction.

(iv) Uniform Interstate Depositions and Discovery Act. Depositions and related documentary production sought in Virginia pursuant to a subpoena issued under the authority of a foreign jurisdiction shall be subject to the provisions of the Uniform Interstate Depositions and Discovery Act, Virginia Code §§ [8.01-412.8](#) through [8.01-412.15](#).

(b) *Notice of Examination: General Requirements; Special Notice; Production of Documents and Things; Deposition of Organization.* —

(1) A party desiring to take the deposition of any person upon oral examination shall give reasonable notice in writing to every other party to the action. 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 him or the particular class or group to which he belongs. 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.

(2) Leave of court is not required for the taking of a deposition by plaintiff if the notice (A) states that the person to be examined is about to go out of the Commonwealth, or is about to go out of the United States, or is bound on a voyage to sea, and will be unavailable for examination unless his deposition is taken before expiration of the period for filing a responsive pleading under Rule 3:8, and (B) sets forth facts to support the statement. The plaintiff's attorney shall sign the notice, and his signature constitutes a certification by him that to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief the statement and supporting facts are true.

If a party shows that when he was served with notice under this subdivision (b)(2) he was unable through the exercise of diligence to obtain counsel to represent him at the taking of the deposition, the deposition may not be used against him.

(3) The court may for cause shown enlarge or shorten the time for taking the deposition.

(4) ~~[Deleted.]~~ Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties or otherwise provided by court order or by law, only the witness, the parties, their respective counsel including such counsel's staff, experts identified pursuant to Rule 4:1(b)(4)(A), and those involved with the administration of the deposition (such as court reporters and translators) may attend the deposition, given the private nature of discovery. Counsel of record for the parties and counsel for any non-party deponent must timely confer regarding any other

attendees who are requested by a party or by the deponent to be present at the deposition. A party seeking to exclude any person from attending a deposition – or seeking authorization for any person to attend a deposition – must move for an order in the discretion of the circuit court.

(5) The notice to a party deponent may be accompanied by a request made in compliance with Rule 4:9 for the production of documents and tangible things at the taking of the deposition. The procedure of Rule 4:9 shall apply to the request.

(6) A party may in his notice name as the deponent a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or governmental agency and designate with reasonable particularity the matters on which examination is requested. The organization so named shall designate one or more officers, directors, or managing agents, or other persons who consent to testify on its behalf, and may set forth, for each person designated, the matters on which he will testify. The persons so designated shall testify as to matters known or reasonably available to the organization. This subdivision (b)(6) does not preclude taking a deposition by any other procedure authorized in these Rules.

(7) Unless the court orders otherwise, a deposition may be taken by telephone, video conferencing, or teleconferencing. A deposition taken by telephone, video conferencing, or teleconferencing shall be taken before an appropriate officer in the locality where the deponent is present to answer questions propounded to him.

(c) *Examination and Cross-Examination; Record of Examination; Oath; Objections.*

(1) ~~Examination and cross-examination of witnesses may proceed as permitted at the trial~~ Unless the parties agree otherwise, examination of a witness at deposition is begun by the party noticing the deposition. The officer before whom the deposition is to be taken shall put the witness on oath and shall personally, or by someone acting under his direction and in his presence, record the testimony of the witness. If requested by one of the parties, the testimony shall be transcribed. The preservation or waiver of objections during the deposition is governed by the provisions of Rule 4:7.

(2) An objection at the time of the examination—whether to evidence, to a party's conduct, to the officer's qualifications, to the manner of taking the deposition, or to any other aspect of the deposition—must be noted on the record, but the examination still proceeds; the testimony is taken subject to any objections. Any objection must be stated concisely in a nonargumentative and nonsuggestive manner. A person may instruct a deponent not to answer only when necessary to preserve a privilege or protection for attorney work-product pursuant to Rule 4:1(b)(3), to enforce a limitation ordered by the court, or to present a motion under subsection (d).

(3) In lieu of participating in the oral examination, parties may serve written questions in a sealed envelope on the party taking the deposition and he shall transmit them to the officer, who shall propound them to the witness and record the answers verbatim.

(d) *Motion to Terminate or Limit Examination.* — At any time during the taking of the deposition, on motion of a 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 court in which the action is pending or the court in the county or city where the deposition is being taken 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 Rule 4:1(c). If the order made terminates the examination, it shall be resumed thereafter only upon the order of the court in which the action is pending. 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. The provisions of Rule 4:12(a)(4) apply to the award of expenses incurred in relation to the motion.

(e) *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 him, 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 within 21 days of its submission to him, 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 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 on a motion to suppress under Rule 4:7(d)(4) the court holds that the reasons given for the refusal to sign require rejection of the deposition in whole or in part.

(f) *Certification and Filing by Officer; Exhibits; Copies; Notice of Filing.* —

(1) The officer shall prepare an electronic or digitally imaged copy of the deposition transcript, including signatures and any changes as provided in subsection (e) of this Rule, and shall certify on the deposition that the witness was duly sworn by him and that the deposition is a true record of the testimony given by the witness. In a divorce or annulment case, the officer shall then promptly file the electronic or digitally imaged deposition in the office of the clerk, notifying all other parties of such action. In all other cases, the officer shall then lodge the deposition with the attorney for the party who initiated the taking of the deposition, notifying the clerk and all parties of such action. Depositions taken pursuant to this Rule or Rule 4:6 (except depositions taken in divorce and annulment cases) shall not be filed with the clerk until the court so directs, either on its own initiative or upon the request of any party prior to or during the trial. Any such filing shall be made electronically unless otherwise ordered by the judge.

Documents and things produced for inspection during the examination of the witness, shall, upon the request of a party, be marked for identification and annexed to and returned with the deposition, and may be inspected and copied by any party, except

that (A) the person producing the materials may substitute copies to be marked for identification, if he affords to all parties fair opportunity to verify the copies by comparison with the originals, and (B) if the person producing the materials requests their return, the officer shall mark them, give each party an opportunity to inspect and copy them, and return them to the person producing them, and the materials may then be used in the same manner as if annexed to and returned with the deposition. Any party may move for an order that the original be annexed to and returned with the deposition to the court, pending final disposition of the case.

(2) Upon payment of reasonable charges therefor, the officer shall furnish a copy of the deposition to any party or to the deponent.

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

(g) *Failure to Attend or to Serve Subpoena; Expenses.* —

(1) If the party giving the notice of the taking of a deposition fails to attend and proceed therewith and another party attends in person or by attorney pursuant to the notice, the court may order the party giving the notice to pay to such other party the reasonable expenses incurred by him and his attorney in attending, including reasonable attorney's fees.

(2) If the party giving the notice of the taking of a deposition of a witness fails to serve a subpoena upon him and the witness because of such failure does not attend, and if another party attends in person or by attorney because he expects the deposition of that witness to be taken, the court may order the party giving the notice to pay to such other party the reasonable expenses incurred by him and his attorney in attending, including reasonable attorney's fees.

Last amended by Order dated ~~May 1, 2017~~January 9, 2020; effective ~~August 1, 2017~~March 15, 2020.

RULES OF SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA
PART FIVE A
THE COURT OF APPEALS
F. PROCEDURE FOLLOWING PERFECTION OF APPEAL

Rule 5A:25. Appendix.

(a) *When Required.* An appendix shall be filed by the appellant in all cases no later than the time of filing his opening brief.

(b) *Filing.* If the combined lengths of the appendix and the opening brief of the appellant do not exceed the limitation prescribed in Rule 5A:19, the appendix may be filed as an addendum to the opening brief and within the same cover. If the combined lengths of the appendix and the opening brief exceed the limitation prescribed in Rule 5A:19, the appellant shall file the appendix as a separate volume. The appellant must file 3 printed copies and an electronic version in Portable Document Format (PDF) of the appendix and must serve an electronic copy on counsel for each party separately represented at the time of filing the appendix with the Court. For purposes of this Rule, service by email shall be governed by Rule 1:17, which allows electronic transmission without the need of consent by opposing counsel. This Court may by order require the filing or service of a different number and may, and may, sua sponte or on motion, enter an order dispensing with the appendix and permitting an appeal to proceed on the original record with any copies of the record, or relevant parts, that the Court may order the parties to file. The appendix shall be filed in the manner prescribed by the VACES Guidelines and User's Manual, using the Virginia Appellate Courts eBriefs System (VACES). The Guidelines are located on the Court's website at <http://www.vacourts.gov/online/vaces/resources/guidelines.pdf>.

(c) *Contents.* An appendix shall include:

- (1) the basic initial pleading (as finally amended);
- (2) the judgment appealed from, and any memorandum or opinion relating thereto;
- (3) any testimony and other incidents of the case germane to the assignments of error;
- (4) the title (but not the caption) of each paper contained in the appendix, and its filing date;
- (5) the names of witnesses printed at the beginning of excerpts from their testimony and at the top of each page thereof; and
- (6) exhibits necessary for an understanding of the case that can reasonably be reproduced.

(d) *Determination of Contents.* Within ten days after the filing of the record with the Court of Appeals or, in a case in which a petition for appeal has been granted, within ten days after the date of the certificate of appeal issued by the clerk of the Court of Appeals, counsel for appellant shall file in the office of the clerk of the Court of Appeals a written statement signed by all counsel setting forth an agreed designation of the parts of the record to be included in the appendix. In the absence of such an agreement, counsel for appellant shall file with the clerk of the Court of Appeals a statement of the assignments of error and a designation of the contents to be included in the appendix within fifteen days after the filing of the record or, in a case in which

a petition for appeal has been granted, within fifteen days after the date of the certificate of appeal; not more than ten days after this designation is filed, counsel for appellee shall file with the clerk of the Court of Appeals a designation of any additional contents to be included in the appendix and, in appeals of right, a statement of any additional assignments of error the appellee wishes to present. The appellant shall include in the appendix the parts thus designated, together with any additional parts the appellant considers germane.

(e) *Table of Contents; Form of Presentation.* At the beginning of the appendix there shall be a table of contents, which shall include the name of each witness whose testimony is included in the appendix and the page number of the appendix at which each portion of the testimony of the witness begins. Thereafter, the parts of the record to be reproduced shall be set out in chronological order. When matter contained in the transcript of proceedings is set out in the appendix, the page of the transcript or of the record at which such matter may be found shall be indicated in brackets immediately before the matter which is set out. Omissions in the text of papers or of the transcript must be indicated by asterisks. Immaterial matters (such as captions, subscriptions and acknowledgements) shall be omitted. A question and its answer may be contained in a single paragraph.

(f) *Costs.* Unless counsel otherwise agree, the cost of producing the appendix shall initially be paid by the appellant, but if the appellant considers that parts of the record designated by the appellee for inclusion are unnecessary for the determination of the issue presented, he may so advise the appellee, and the appellee shall advance the cost of including such parts. The cost of producing the appendix shall be taxed as costs in the case.

(g) *Penalty.* Nothing shall be included in the appendix that is not germane to an assignment of error. As examples, no pleadings (other than the basic initial pleading as finally amended) shall be included unless an assignment of error is presented relating to it, and then only the portion thereof to which the assignment relates; and testimony relating solely to the amount of damages shall not be included unless error is assigned relating to the amount of damages. If parts of the record are included in the appendix unnecessarily at the direction of a party, this Court may impose the cost of producing such parts on that party.

(h) *Assumptions.* It will be assumed that the appendix contains everything germane to the assignments of error. The Court of Appeals may, however, consider other parts of the record.

(i) *Sealed Materials in the Appendix.* Appendices filed with this Court are a matter of public record. If counsel concludes it is necessary to include sealed material in the appendix, then, in order to maintain the confidentiality of the materials, counsel must designate the sealed material for inclusion in a sealed supplemental appendix to be filed separately from the regular appendix. A sealed volume of the appendix must be filed in the manner prescribed by the VACES Guidelines and User's Manual. The Guidelines are located on the Court's website at <http://www.vacourts.gov/online/vaces/resources/guidelines.pdf>.

Promulgated by Order dated Friday, April 30, 2010; effective July 1, 2010.

Last amended by order dated ~~July 2, 2019~~January 9, 2020; effective ~~September 1, 2019~~March 15, 2020.