

Testifying in Court “Eleven Commandments”

- 1. Direct your response to the trier of the fact if you can.**
- 2. Refresh recollection with anything helpful, even while on the witness stand.**
- 3. You should be preparing to testify from the moment you enter the case, not from the moment you get served with a subpoena.**
- 4. When you hear an objection, stop testifying. Let the judge make a ruling.**
- 5. “I don’t know” is a good answer when it is the truth.**
- 6. Answer the question that is asked. Do not volunteer information.**
- 7. Unless ordered otherwise by the court, you are allowed to talk to anyone you want about the case. You do not have to, but you can.**
- 8. Diagrams should be used whenever they would be helpful.**
- 9. Your attitude should be the same when responding to either the prosecution or the defense.**
- 10. Do not get emotionally involved in a case. Be professional and present the facts.**
- 11. If you want to communicate to a prosecutor during courtroom proceedings, do not whisper in his/her ear. Pass a note.**