

RULE 17 - SEPARATION AND EXCLUSION OF WITNESSES

17.1 Except as provided in Rule 17.3, at the request of a party the Court shall Order witnesses excluded so that they cannot hear the testimony of other witnesses, and it may make the Order of its own Motion. An Order directing the “exclusion” or “separation” of witnesses or the like, in general terms without specification of other or additional limitations, is effective only to require the exclusion of witnesses from the Hearing during the testimony of other witnesses.

17.2 The Order of exclusion or separation of witnesses limits out-of-court contact between witnesses or between witnesses and third-parties, while the matter is proceeding in the Courtroom. Violations of this Order shall result in sanctions, including monetary and/or non-monetary sanctions and/or contempt of Court.

17.3 This Rule does not authorize exclusion of any of the following persons:

- (A) a party who is a natural person;
- (B) an officer or employee of a party that is not a natural person designated as its representative by its attorney;
- (C) a person whose presence is shown by a party to be essential to the presentation of the party’s cause; and
- (D) in a criminal proceeding, a victim of the charged offense to the extent that the victim’s presence is authorized by statute enacted by the General assembly. As used in this Rule, “victim” has the same meaning as in the provisions of the Ohio Constitution providing rights for victims of crimes.