

Day in the Life Videos and Multitasking Your Evidence

A Forensic Producer's Guide to Powerful and Effective Day in the Life Exhibits

by Chris Ballard

Here's how it works: witnesses involved with your client's care and activities of daily living that are portrayed in the Day in the Life(DIL) video are asked to explain on videotape what they are doing and why. This powerful narration along with the graphic video, all properly edited together then becomes a vital piece of evidence for mediating your case. Care must be taken in the shooting and solicitation of such narrative in the event the case goes to trial. Accuracy, relevance and caution should be taken so that the exhibit holds up through any hearsay or



foundation objections. Persons portrayed in the video are usually already at the mediation or the trial in the courtroom and listed on your order of proof, so any unreliability and non-susceptibility to cross examination objections may become moot.

The spouse or caretaker of your injured client is the best person to describe what your client's limitations in daily activities are and the frequency and type of normal care that your client has to undergo. There are the persons who can relate to a jury or adjuster as to how your client's life has

changed. In a spousal situation, the viewers of this evidence also get to experience and see how the spouse's life has also changed tremendously.

Powerful and compelling mediation videos have also been produced incorporating statements from life care experts into the edited day in the life footage. This gives your damages aspect of your case great credibility along with powerful visuals to compliment the elements of your client's life care plan and life care expert's testimony. Testimony concerning therapy modalities, equipment needs and medical care come to life with this type of video. And the attendant needs for the future of your client become self evident just by watching this type of video.

In these difficult times of tort reform and case preparation costs, it's crucial that you get the most you can out of every trial exhibit, thereby enhancing and forwarding your case to settlement. What stories do you have about getting the most out of multi-tasking mediation or trial products?

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