

How ALV Standards Strengthen Deposition Video Admissibility

A practical foundation for authentication, reliability, completeness, and trial use

ALV standards do not replace court rules or legal judgment. They turn those rules into a documented recording workflow: tested equipment, redundant capture, neutral operation, non-distorted presentation, complete views of testimony and exhibits, and secure preservation. That gives attorneys a stronger factual foundation when deposition video is offered, challenged, edited for trial, or used for impeachment.

WHAT THE ALV STANDARDS DO OPERATIONALLY

- Build redundancy into the record: two computers, backup internet, UPS power, replacement cables, and critical backup gear.
- Require quality capture: minimum 1080p recording, adequate bitrate/frame rate, fault-tolerant format, and primary plus backup recordings.
- Preserve what the witness saw: witness-only and witness-exhibit views, captured by native screen or application-window methods.
- Reduce distortion: landscape orientation, full-face/mid-torso framing, lighting review, clean feeds without pop-ups, tooltips, system sounds, or cursor movement.
- Document the proceeding: test recordings, confirmed audio/video sufficiency, time-zone/timestamp narration, clear read-on/read-off, issue logs, QC review, secure storage, and two-location archiving.

HOW THAT SUPPORTS ADMISSIBILITY

- Rule 30 foundation: supports notice, officer direction, on-record identification, oath, non-distortion, completion statements, certification, and custody.
- Authentication: helps the videographer explain what was recorded, how it was recorded, who was present, whether equipment was tested, and whether the file is the same record delivered.
- Reliability: redundancy, monitoring, tests, and QC reduce gaps, dropped frames, corrupted files, and later disputes over whether the record accurately reflects the testimony.
- Completeness and fairness: separate witness/exhibit views and complete preservation make it easier to respond to partial-clip objections or demands for additional context.
- Best evidence and duplicates: primary/backup recordings, secure storage, documentation, and archiving reduce authenticity challenges to originals or reliable copies.

Attorney-ready talking point

A legal videographer following ALV remote standards can do more than say “the meeting was recorded.” The videographer can explain the tested system, the views captured, the safeguards against distortion or loss, the monitoring performed, and the storage path after the deposition. That is the foundation courts look for when video is challenged as inaccurate, incomplete, misleading, or unauthenticated.

Useful foundational questions

- What equipment and recording method did you use, and did you test it before going on the record?
- Did you monitor the actual recordings throughout the deposition?
- Did your read-on identify the officer, date, time, place, deponent, oath, and persons present?
- What steps did you take to avoid distorting the witness’s appearance, demeanor, audio, or exhibit view?
- How were the primary and backup files preserved, stored, and delivered?

Bottom line: ALV standards help convert a remote deposition from a platform recording into a defensible evidentiary record.