

The Honorable Robert J. Bryan

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

STATE OF WASHINGTON,

PLAINTIFF,

v.

THE GEO GROUP, INC.,

DEFENDANT.

No. 3:17-cv-05806-RJB

UGOCHUKWU GOODLUCK
NWAUZOR, FERNANDO AGUIRRE-
URBINA, individually and on behalf of all
those similarly situated,

No. 3:17-cv-05769-RJB

STIPULATION RE: DEPOSITION BY
REMOTE VIDEO MEANS

Plaintiff,

v.

THE GEO GROUP, INC., a Florida
corporation,

Defendant.

STIPULATION

This stipulation is made and entered into between the Parties, by and through their respective counsel, with reference to the following:

1. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, national, state, and local officials have

1 declared a state of emergency. Public health officials recommend that people maintain physical
2 distance between themselves and others to slow the spread of COVID-19.

3 2. The Parties wish to proceed with depositions in this matter, which typically
4 involves close physical proximity. To observe social distancing and other health and safety
5 protocols, the Parties may conduct depositions through remote video means.

6 THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED AS
7 FOLLOWS:

8 1. Plaintiffs will depose Brian Evans and Dan Ragsdale by remote video means
9 pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(4).

10 2. Physical Presence. Brian Evans and Dan Ragsdale will be made available for
11 deposition by video. The witness will agree, on the record at the beginning of the deposition not
12 to converse with anyone off of the video recording while the parties are on the record. This
13 agreement will include nonverbal communication. Nothing in this section should be construed
14 to prohibit the witness from seeking IT support, should the need arise. Nor shall it prohibit the
15 corporate representative from appearing in the same room as the witness, so long as the corporate
16 representative remains on video for the duration of the deposition and maintains her own video
17 stream separate from that of the witness.

18 3. Participant List. At least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the noticed deposition
19 date, each individual planning to participate in the deposition must notify the party noticing the
20 deposition of his/her intent to participate and provide the following information to the noticing
21 party: (a) name, (b) email address, and (c) phone number. The noticing party will share this
22 information with the vendor arranging the deposition for the limited purpose of facilitating each
23 participating parties' access to the video web portal for the deposition.

24 4. Technology Requirements. All video depositions will be stenographically
25 recorded by a court reporter with real-time feed capabilities. Each individual participating in a
26 deposition conducted by video must have a webcam-equipped device (such as a desktop, laptop,

1 or tablet), and a device with audio-capabilities or access to a telephone for calling into the
2 deposition. Other than this equipment, the witness shall not be permitted to have access to any
3 other communication devices (such as a cellphone) while on the record, but a witness may have
4 access to devices that may help him or her participate in the conference such as speakers, remote
5 hotspot devices, headphones, or other similar devices that are not used for communication with
6 a third-party. The witness will be responsible for ensuring that they have access to required
7 equipment on the day of the deposition and that the any equipment checks or tests (as instructed
8 by the deposition services vendor) have been completed prior to the deposition. Noticing counsel
9 are not responsible for the quality or functionality of the video and audio stream for the witness,
10 observers, or other participants. Attendees agree to work in good faith to facilitate remote
11 participation.

12 5. Identification of Individuals in Attendance. Each witness, attorney, and other
13 person attending the deposition shall be identified on the record at the commencement of the
14 deposition. Under no circumstances may a person attend the deposition remotely in any manner
15 without identifying themselves on the record at the commencement of the deposition.

16 6. Conduct by Participants Appearing Remotely. Each individual participating in
17 the deposition (including counsel for the deponent) must do so remotely (subject to the
18 limitations in Paragraph 1) and agrees to have an active video stream and audio line for the
19 duration of the deposition. Each participant should attend from a quiet, private location. The
20 parties understand that there are technological limits for all involved and that certain glitches
21 may be impossible to avoid, but that all attendees will work in good faith to avoid any such
22 glitches where possible.

23 7. Counsel Representing the Deponent During a Video Deposition. While on the
24 record, counsel for the deponent shall not communicate with the witness at all outside of the
25 video/audio stream. This includes, but is not limited to, instant messaging, text messaging, or
26 any equivalent. In the event any such communications occur, the parties agree that the

1 communications are discoverable. Only one person may be designated to make objections. This
2 does not prohibit counsel from making objections or statements on the record that are allowable
3 under existing applicable rules for depositions, including, but not limited to ensuring the witness
4 can properly see exhibits that are being shown to him or her and ensuring all parties are on the
5 same page of the exhibit.

6 8. Disruptions. In the event a participant's video feed is interrupted or otherwise
7 becomes hidden from view, the deposition will be suspended, and the parties will go back on the
8 record only when the participant's video stream functionality has been restored. Disruptions due
9 to video streaming, phone line interruptions, or other technical problems shall not be counted
10 against record time. If a party believes that the transmission and/or recording was disrupted in
11 bad faith, including but not limited to for purposes of delay, it may seek further appropriate relief
12 from the Court.

13 9. Court Reporter and Videographer. The parties will stipulate, in accordance with
14 Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(5), that the court reporter or videographer may participate in the deposition
15 by remote means, and that the deposition will be deemed to have been conducted "before" that
16 officer, even though the officer is not physically present with the deponent, so long as that officer
17 is able to identify the deponent.

18 10. Exhibits. Exhibits will be shared electronically through the court reporter's
19 exhibit share platform, Exhibit Share, which requires all participants to have a web browser. The
20 noticing party agrees to provide exhibits via email should technical issues arise.

21 11. Official Record. The court reporter's transcript, and the videographer's recording
22 (if any), shall constitute the official record of the deposition for all purposes.

23 12. Other Recording. No participant other than the court reporter and videographer
24 (if any) may record or photograph any of the proceedings. This shall include recording using any
25 form of remote transmitting device, computer recording device, laptops, camera, and personal
26 device, including smart phones, tablets, iPads, Androids, iPhones, Blackberries, or other PDAs.

1 Nothing in this provision prevents or limits the taking of notes by those identified on the record.

2 13. Use of Remote Depositions at Trial. Remote depositions conducted in accordance
3 with this Stipulation may be admitted at trial with the same effect as a deposition conducted in-
4 person.

5 14. Instant Visual Display Technology. In the event the noticing party utilizes instant
6 visual display technology such that the court reporter’s writing of the proceeding will be
7 displayed in real-time, the witness shall not have access to the instant visual display, unless
8 agreed upon by the parties.

9 15. Applicable Authority. Unless otherwise set forth herein, the Federal Rules of
10 Civil Procedure, Federal Rules of Evidence, and other applicable authority shall govern as
11 though the deposition was conducted in-person.

12 SO STIPULATED this 10th day of June 2020.

13 AKERMAN LLP

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s/ Jamal N. Whitehead

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Class Counsel

ORDER

IT IS SO ORDERED:

DATED this 10th day of June, 2020.



ROBERT J. BRYAN
United States District Judge

Jointly Presented by:

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