



In this new era of remote depositions due to COVID-19, we as certified reporters continue to find ourselves looking for guidance and feeling our way through new procedures, new technology, and staying within our ethical duties. There have been some great articles and advice that NCRA has made available to help us navigate our way through this “new normal.”

When a deposition is noticed through means of a videoconference platform, the following articles from the Journal of Court Reporting offer some great advice and insight:

- [Conducting meetings and depositions by remote means](#) (May 26, 2020)
- [Helpful how-tos for remote depositions](#) (March 16, 2020)
- [Five tips for looking great in remote depositions](#) (April 27, 2020)
- [Do's and don'ts of videoconference security](#) (Computerworld, April 7, 2020)

Many questions have been raised as to using the recording feature that some videoconference platforms offer. NCRA has issued an advisory opinion as to this very subject. [Advisory Opinion 44](#), Should a Court Reporter Act as Both the Verbatim Reporter and the Videographer for the Same Proceeding (Originally written, 2006), states:

“The Committee on Professional Ethics has determined that a reporter may not act as both the videographer and the verbatim reporter for the same proceeding. The paramount duty of the reporter is to provide an accurate record of the proceeding. To be responsible for handling the many issues related to operating the video equipment that arise in a given proceeding would compromise the ability to accurately report the proceeding. This would result in a violation of Provisions Nos. 3 and 9 of the Code of Professional Ethics that deal with avoiding the fact and appearance of impropriety and maintaining the integrity of the reporting profession.”

While Advisory Opinion 44 was written in 2006, it is currently the only and most up-to-date advisory opinion on this particular topic.

Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 30(b)(1) further states:

“...If the deposition is to be recorded by audio or audio-video, the notice shall state the technique for recording the deposition and the protocols to be used for such recording, the identity of the person recording the deposition, and the placement of camera(s), if any.”

