

Florida High School Mock Trial 2023 Questions and Answers

The questions below were submitted by team coaches or teachers. Answers have been provided by the case author. Formal changes to the case packet will be published in mid-December. However as new questions are received, a separate document reflecting proposed changes will be posted.

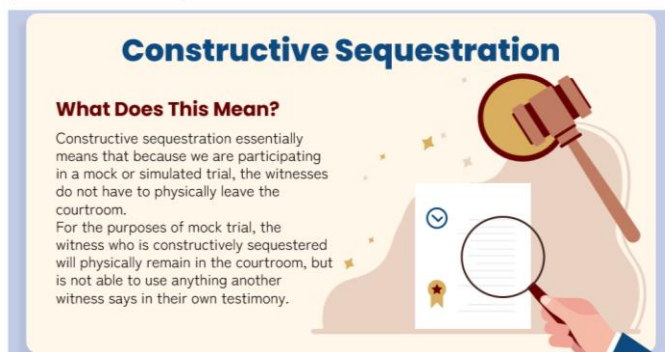
1. **QUESTION:** The case exhibit shows the vehicle landed onto its LEFT side. Is this photo accurate?
It appears inconsistent with case content.

Answer: The car landed on its LEFT side. The case content will be revised to reflect this update.

2. **QUESTION:** What is constructive sequestration and does Austin Hayes need to physically leave the courtroom?

Answer: The expert does not have to leave the courtroom. In a mock trial setting, constructive sequestration means that while the witness, who is constructively sequestered, will physically remain in the courtroom they are to disregard any testimony they may hear. This means that if Witness B is constructively sequestered and hears Witness A say something as they are questioned during trial, Witness B is not allowed to mention or take into consideration anything that Witness A said.

The following visual may be useful in defining constructive sequestration.



In this case, Stipulation 12 states: “The defense has notified this Court that they will be calling Austin Hayes as an expert witness. This Court has ruled that Austin Hayes may sit in the courtroom for the duration of Sgt. Quinn Laughlin’s direct and cross examination. Austin Hayes will be constructively sequestered during the testimony of all other witnesses.”

3. **QUESTION:** On Exhibit 4 may we have North, East, South, and West designations on the map? Where is the bar in relation to this map?

Answer: Directions and further information have not been provided. The exhibit is correct as shown.

4. **QUESTION:** Stipulation 17 and 21 says “neither party may object on the grounds that the map is not to scale”. Does that mean the map is not to scale? It is confusing the way the stipulations are worded- it can be interpreted as the map is to scale and no objections can be made that the map is not to scale or it can be interpreted that the map is not to scale and no one can object the admissibility of the maps because they are not to scale.
Answer: The maps are not to exact scale.
5. **REQUEST:** Page 34, line 31-32 has several “he” references that should be he/she.
Answer: Thank you for the corrections; we will amend the case materials accordingly.
6. **QUESTION:** What are the confines of unfair and fair extrapolations? Can defendants make up material that addresses things not specifically mentioned within their statement?
Answer: Under Rule 2.2 Witnesses Bound by Statements, it is indicated that “each witness is bound by the facts contained in that witness’s statement, the Statement of Facts, if present, and/or any necessary documentation relevant to that witness’s testimony.” It also permits fair extrapolations, “provided reasonable inference may be made from the witness’s statement.” Unfair extrapolations are objectionable under Rule 2.3 Unfair Extrapolation. For further clarification on what is considered a fair versus an unfair extrapolation, teams should also refer to Rule 2.3 Unfair Extrapolation.
7. **QUESTION:** In trying to clarify the timeline in Sergeant Laughlin’s Report, the accident happened on the morning of December 18. “Early the next morning” Sgt. Laughlin did the accident reconstruction. Our understanding is that this is happening on December 19th. Then, that “same day, after Laughlin’s reconstruction” a series of events is described, during which, the search warrants are granted. Is this timeline correct?
Answer: The case is correct as written. Additional questions as part of this submission were considered strategy oriented and have not been answered.
8. **QUESTION:** Austin Hayes mentions reviewing a service report on Reese Brooks’ car, but Exhibit 11 is not listed in the “Materials Reviewed” section. Is any clarification needed?
Answer: Although not specifically mentioned in the “Materials Reviewed” section, Austin Hayes does make direct mention of knowledge of Exhibit 11 in line 77 and reviewed the same.
9. **QUESTION:** Exhibit 4 notes a four-way intersection on Lilac Lane? Is there a stop there?
Answer: The exhibit is correct as provided.
10. **QUESTION:** Reese’s car is missing from Exhibit 7B, however Reese mentions in lines 92-95 of their affidavit that Reese marked the location of the car. Can we assume that Reese would have marked the location of Reese’s car in the same spot it is marked in Exhibit 7C?
Answer: An updated Exhibit 7B will be released showing where Reese’s car was parked. The location of Reese’s car will be in the same location as it is shown in Exhibit 7C.
11. **QUESTION:** Are the text messages in Exhibit 8C between Casey and Reese?
Answer: The texts are from Casey to Reese. The exhibit is correct as provided.

12. **QUESTION:** Exhibit 9 has the brake line cutter from Overstone Services. Is the exhibit correct as provided?

Answer: The exhibit is correct as provided.

13. **QUESTION:** In Exhibit 10A, it says the voicemail from Shelby Pryce was produced on 12:46 AM, December 17, 2021. However, Exhibit 10B states that the voicemail was made on 12:46 AM, December 18, 2021. Which is correct?

Answer: Exhibit 10A should be changed to reflect December 18.