

Does Your Legal Videographer Know Their Medicine?

It Pays to Utilize a Forensic, Legal Videographer for Production of Your Trial Exhibits

by Chris Ballard

Before you choose a legal videographer to work on your cases, take into consideration the background, experience and medical knowledge of that videographer. The more your video expert knows about certain disease processes and their resulting symptomatology and limitations upon your client, the better the footage obtained for your pre-trial and trial exhibits. Knowing the sequelae of hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy and cerebral palsy is a must in order to capture the shots needed for an effective, compelling and powerful day in the life or mediation video for a brain damaged baby case. Spastic quadriplegia brings its own set of unique, individual restraints of activities of daily living which must be documented properly to help your pediatric neurologist and life care



expert better explain to the jury the what and why of your client's future needs. An amputee victim being fitted for his first prosthesis undergoes levels of pain, restricted range of motion and fear when first using that prosthesis. Knowing when those moments occur and capturing not only the prosthetic but also the facial expressions at the same time is crucial. Shooting raw footage for a day in the life or demonstrative evidence exhibit is almost always a one-time capture deal. There are no opportunities for any rehearsals for or from your cli-

ents. One does not have the luxury of shooting another take. When a severe muscle spasm occurs from your client, there is no "take two" can we do it again?

The other consideration that must be taken into account is that clients are not professional talent. They are not experienced with being videotaped, must less having a

strange group of people come into their home with lights, camera, crew and action. An uncomfortable and nervous client will be captured on any footage shot and will result in inadequate and an ineffective trial exhibit.

Videographers with years of experience in shooting victims of all types of disabilities already know what shots to get to make your case. You don't have to tie up your time or paralegals' time in having you or someone in your office direct the videographer. And most of all, the experienced and medically knowledgeable videographer will make your client feel more comfortable, thereby more credible when shooting any video. Clients are always nervous. Nervous about their injuries, their lawsuit and their outcome. Using a videographer who understands that mindset just makes sense and makes your job a lot easier when it comes time to presenting powerful and convincing evidence.

Chris Ballard, chris@videos4lawyers.com is Principal and Founder of Omni Video, a group of compassionate and hard-working producers who work for the trial bar nationwide. Producing forensic videos for over 35 years, he is a past President of the Legal Interest Group of the International Television Association.