

Oregon Trial Objections

2009 Edition



Oregon
State
Bar

Legal
Publications

Here's a sample page to illustrate how practical this new book is. Take this reference to court with you and be prepared to object to evidence or respond when your opposing counsel makes an objection.

Ambiguous Questions

Objection

I object on the grounds that the question is [ambiguous / vague / unintelligible].

Response

In most circumstances, it is better to rephrase the question unless counsel is certain of the question's clarity.

Explanation

There is no Oregon Rule specifically covering forms of questions. The court has discretion to sustain the objection pursuant to Rule 611(1). An ambiguous question is one that is susceptible to at least two interpretations, or that is so vague or unintelligible as to make it likely to confuse the jury or witness.

For additional research, see LAIRD C. KIRKPATRICK, OREGON EVIDENCE §611.03 (5th ed 2007) (supplemented periodically).

Rule 611.

Mode and order of interrogation and presentation.

(1) The court shall exercise reasonable control over the mode and order of interrogating witnesses and presenting evidence so as to make the interrogation and presentation effective for the ascertainment of the truth, avoid needless consumption of time and protect witnesses from harassment or undue embarrassment.

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From ambiguous questions to hearsay to relevance, understanding and properly using the possible objections to evidence at trial is an essential skill of a successful and effective trial lawyer.

Arranged in alphabetical order of objections, each possible objection provides you with:

- The proper form of objection
- The possible responses to an objection
- An explanation of the objection and responses
- A cross-reference to OREGON EVIDENCE, by Laird C. Kirkpatrick, for further research
- The full text of the relevant Oregon Evidence Rule(s)
- Space for notes related to your current case or new case law

***Oregon Trial Objections* provides novice and seasoned litigators alike with a handy quick-reference tool, to be ready to state the proper objection to any questionable evidence at trial and to respond to objections raised by opposing counsel.**

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