

Summary of Changes in the 2023-2024 Indiana Mock Trial Rules

Rule 4.17 - In order for a witness to testify as an expert, a witness must be tendered to the court as an expert following foundation showing the witness has specialized knowledge, training, or education in the subject.

The attorney will need to lay a proper foundation for witnesses to be recognized as an expert in a particular field. This can be done by asking questions pertaining to the witness's knowledge, training, or education on the subject. Attorneys can use information found in the witness's statement or in any exhibit provided to help bolster the witness's expertise.

Once this has been done, the attorney will need to ask the presiding judge to have the court recognize the given witness as an expert witness.

An example of the language that can be used would be:

"Your honor, I would like the court to recognize [witness name] as an expert in their field."

The given example is **not** the only way for the witness to be tendered. As long as there is some sort of recognition from the presiding judge regarding the witness's expertise, the tendering will be allowed.