

General Guidelines for Faculty, Staff or Students when presenting Testimony or Comment to courts, legal hearings, external agencies, legislative bodies or related groups

School of Dental Medicine (SDM)

April 9, 2009

There are generally three situations wherein faculty, staff or students (hereafter called the “SDM Individual”) may be asked to provide testimony or comment:

The [SDM Individual]:

- a) Is providing testimony or comment as a State employee (this applies whether or not the Health Center is receiving payment for such testimony)
- b) Is providing testimony or comment as a consultant (private citizen and being paid) and has been approved to engage in such consulting through the process described in the University’s Faculty Consulting Policy and Procedures, and
- c) Is providing testimony or comment as a volunteer (private citizen but not being paid).

General Guidelines:

1. The [SDM Individual] may state their job title, position or job duties (i.e. Professor/Staff Member/Student of XXX, SDM, UCHC, or UConn).
2. In case (a), one must use one’s professional judgment as to the level of review required before stating an opinion.
In the case of faculty, faculty are entitled to speak as individual State employees and without prior review, but can only speak for the UCHC/SDM or its ‘units’ with the permission of the Dean or the Associate Dean/Department Head of the unit involved. Faculty should make it clear when providing such testimony whether they are speaking as individual faculty or for the School or a School unit.
Staff and students may only speak for the UCHC/SDM with the permission of the Dean or the Associate Dean/Department Head of the unit involved.
The School encourages anyone speaking formally to governmental bodies to have their remarks reviewed in advance, even when speaking as an individual faculty member.
3. In cases (b) and (c), i.e. while not acting as a State employee or as a School representative, the [SDM Individual] must make it clear that any opinions they are stating are being made as a private citizen and are not those of the SDM, UCHC, or UConn.
4. When giving expert testimony in a legal action as a consultant, this may only be done if the [SDM Individual] did not participate in the clinical care of the patient in his/her capacity as a State employee.

Approved by Executive Council June 3, 2009