

1.22 Self-Represented Party

[Name of party] is representing [himself] [herself] [other pronoun] in this trial. This fact must not affect your consideration of the case. Self-represented parties and parties represented by an attorney are entitled to the same fair consideration.

Because [name of party] is acting as [his] [her] [other pronoun] own lawyer, you will hear [him] [her] [other pronoun] speak at various times during the trial. [He] [She] [other pronoun] may make an opening statement and closing argument and may ask questions of witnesses, make objections, and argue legal issues to the court. I want to remind you that when [name of party] speaks in these parts of the trial, [he] [she] [other pronoun] is acting as [his] [her] [other pronoun] own advocate, and [his] [her] [other pronoun] words are not evidence. The only evidence in this case comes from witnesses who testify under oath on the witness stand or by deposition and from exhibits that are admitted into evidence. When a self-represented party testifies, you should treat this testimony just as you would the testimony of any other witness.

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