



INTERNATIONAL
DEPO
GUIDE™

OPTIMA  **JURIS™**
THE INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITION AGENCY

**A GUIDE
TO DEPOSITIONS
IN RUSSIA**

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Scheduling or Questions? Call 1.855.678.4628



RUSSIA DEPO BASICS

When it's time to schedule your deposition of a witness based in Russia, we want you to have the most comprehensive information available at your fingertips. That is why our experts have put together this easy-to-follow guide on setting up a deposition near Russia. First, let's answer some of the most important questions:

1

Are there any restrictions on holding a U.S. depo in Russia?

Yes. Russia does not permit the taking of depositions or witness statements for the use in foreign courts. Even conducting a deposition in a hotel room with an oath by private persons could result in criminal penalties. The restrictions also extend to telephonic and videoconference depositions. Participation in unauthorized depositions can result in arrest, detention, and deportations of attorneys and other participants.

2

Is there a work-around for depositing a witness based in Russia?

The best solution is to have your witness travel from Russia to a nearby country like Finland, and take your deposition there. Depositions are completely legal and there are no restrictions for taking them outside of Russia.

3

Can depositions in Finland take place at any venue?

Yes! Depositions in Finland can take place at the venue of your choosing, whether that be a hotel, law firm office, conference room, or videoconferencing facility.

4

Does a U.S. passport holder need a visa to enter Finland?

Attorneys with U.S. passports may enter Finland for up to 90 days for tourist or business purposes without a visa.

5

Are there court reporters in Europe for U.S. depositions?

Yes! Optima Juris has region-based court reporters for depositions in Europe, which means lower travel costs for you.

6

Options for attending your deposition of a Russia-based witness in Finland.



Attending Deposition In-Person

Attorneys, court reporters, legal videographers, and/or deposition interpreters travel to the location of the witness.

Advantages:

Typically this an ideal scenario to get the clearest record and you are less likely to encounter technical issues.

Disadvantages:

Travel costs can add up quickly.



Videoconference Facility

Attorneys participate remotely at a videoconference facility. Reporter, videographer, and interpreter should attend deposition with the witness.

Advantages:

Videoconferencing offers the most reliable remote connection and allows attorneys to see the witness while not having to travel to the deposition destination.

Disadvantages:

Videoconference facilities are expensive. Costs typically fall within the USD \$400 per-hour range.



Moving depo to nearby country

To depose a Russia-based witness you will need to move your depo to a nearby country like Finland, as Russia does not permit depositions at all.

Advantages:

U.S. deposition friendly countries like Finland permit the taking of depositions regardless of the witness' nationality making it an ideal locale for deposing a Russia-based witness.

Disadvantages:

Some additional travel costs if your witness has to travel to a neighboring country.

7

How can we swear in a witness outside of the U.S.?

When attorneys need to swear in witnesses abroad, the time-honored solution is for both sides to stipulate on the record that the court reporter can swear in the witness. Using a U.S. certified court reporter is not enough, because notary powers do not apply when they venture outside of U.S. territory. Stipulating on the record is an excellent solution and it works in all cases, with both U.S. certified and foreign certified reporters (i.e.: British or Canadian reporters). Stipulating on the record is the easiest way to assure the admissibility of your witness's testimony.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Every situation, covered

Whether you're an attorney, paralegal, or a court reporting firm looking to set up an international depo, we've got your back.



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Scheduling or Questions?

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[Schedule Depo](#)

Essential travel information for Finland

Traveling to Finland for a deposition? Get the most out of your visit by brushing up on the culture with these useful travel tips.



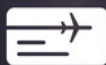
CURRENCY

Finland uses the euro. Before you leave, notify your bank, credit card company, or other financial institutions that you are going overseas.



GENERAL TIPPING

Tipping in Finland isn't common though it is a nice gesture. For taxis tipping is not required but rounding up the fair makes things easier for everyone. Hotels a service charge will be on your bill. You can tip a few extra euros if the maid or bell-boy provided a good service.



MAJOR AIRPORT

Helsinki-Vantaa International Airport,
HEL

DEPO CHECKLIST

Optima Juris' comprehensive checklist for your deposition of a Russia-based witness in Finland.

When scheduling an international deposition, we ideally recommend getting started four to six weeks in advance. Of course, it's possible to work within a much shorter timeframe, just keep in mind you need to allow sufficient time for noticing your witness, arranging for resources on the ground (like court reporters, interpreters, conference rooms), and planning travel.

Getting there

3-1 weeks before your deposition

- If the attorney is traveling, be sure to make all travel arrangements, including air, hotel, and any travel insurance or special shipping arrangements for the deposition exhibits. The earlier you book your travel, the cheaper it will be.
- Prepare and send your deposition notices.
- Submit any relevant documents to the case that you would like the team to review prior to the deposition.



DISCLAIMER: The authors of this guide are not attorneys. The information set forth in the guide is merely an overview based solely on the author's practical experience and should not be considered legal advice. Optima Juris is not responsible for any information, advice, guidance, or suggestions offered on our guide, or by our employees or contractors. Such information is provided "as is" and does not constitute expert legal opinion. Attorneys and their representatives must do the necessary legal research before making any decisions or binding arrangements with respect to depositions or any Optima Juris services they may hire.

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Plan ahead

4-6 weeks before your deposition

- Determine whether the witness in question is willing to be deposed. If the witness is willing, mutual stipulation of the parties can allow for depositions to be planned quickly. If the witness is unwilling, contact us for your options.
- Determine which deposition services will be required:
 - Court reporter (realtime or standard delivery)
 - Legal videographer
 - Deposition interpreter (determine language pair needed)
- Determine where your deposition will take place:
 - Hotel or conference room
 - Videoconferencing facility
 - Web-based videoconferencing (Optima Juris DepoAnywhere™)
- Contact Optima Juris to book your reporter and any other depositions services you require.

That's it

Everything has been set...

- Upon conclusion of the deposition, the attorney will place their orders with the court reporter for the transcript and/or video copies.
- Submit payment for transcripts and video, and await the arrival of your order.
- You deserve a pat on the back - your international depo went off without a hitch. Bravo!