Preamble

Whereas evidence;
Whereas your mom;
Be it enacted by the Senate of SimDemocracy:

Killing Myself the Way the CPA Makes Me Do This Shit Act

Article 1: Amendments to the Courtroom Procedures Act 2025

§1. Part 3, Article 12 of the Courtroom Procedures Act 2025 shall be amended to read:

Article 12: Evidence Procedures

§1. In legal proceedings, “evidence” shall refer to both documentary and testimonial evidence, as defined by this article.

§2. Documentary evidence shall be documents admitted by either counsel which relate to facts pertinent to the case, and are required to follow all regulations set in Articles 2, 3, and 4 of the Evidence Act 2025, further needing to be in accordance with regulations governing the specific type of trial.

§3. Documentary evidence shall be inadmissible on the following grounds:

> §3.1. Personal data; Evidence containing personal information shall only be admissible with the consent of the person whose personal data it contains.
>
> §3.2. Fruit of the poisonous tree; Evidence obtained by the SDBI or other governmental agencies through illegal means shall be inadmissible in court.
>
> §3.3. Lack of foundation; Authenticity of a piece of evidence may only be questioned during its introduction. The opposing party may then motion for a recess in order to authenticate a piece of evidence; if its authenticity is not confirmed it shall be inadmissible.
>
> §3.4. Incomplete; Evidence that lacks context, or is presented incompletely in order to mislead or deceive shall be inadmissible.

§3.5. Irrelevant; Evidence that is irrelevant to the trial, or exists only to cast the defendant in a bad light instead of proving that they committed the crime shall be inadmissible.

§4. During any time when documentary evidence is being admitted; either counsel may raise an objection regarding a violation of procedures or rules of evidence.

§5. Testimonial evidence shall be witnesses that are called by either counsel to testify regarding facts to which they personally witnessed.

§5.1. Motions made to call witnesses must be adequately reasoned by the counsel calling the witness, subject to the Judge's discretion.

§5.2. If the witness is the defendant party, they may be called to testify, but have the right to refuse to say anything which may incriminate themselves.

§6. Once recognized to speak, witnesses are to be questioned by the counsel that called them to testify, and shall then be questioned by the opposing counsel.

§7. The following types of questions shall not be allowed during a questioning of a witness:

§7.1. Leading; A question that suggests a particular answer or contains the information the examiner is looking to have confirmed. Leading question objections shall only apply on direct examination.

§7.1.1. Despite §7.1, if a witness is hostile, unwilling, is unable to recall certain facts, is part of the opposing party, or has trouble answering the questions, leading questions may be asked.

§7.1.2. Leading questions may also be asked to establish the truth of a contested statement.

§7.1.3. It shall not be permitted for a party to contest the truth of a statement of their own witness, except as permitted by §7.1.1.

§7.2. Ambiguous or confusing; A question not clear or precise enough for the witness to properly answer.

§7.3. Argumentative; A question that makes an argument rather than asking a question.

§7.4. Assuming facts not in evidence; A question assuming a statement for which no evidence has been presented as true.

§7.5. Calling for a conclusion; A question that asks for an opinion rather than a fact.

§7.6. Compound; Multiple questions asked together.

§7.7. Irrelevant; A question not relevant to the matters of the trial.

§7.8. Incompetent; A question for which the witness is not qualified to answer.

§7.9. Calls for speculation; A question asking the witness to guess rather than relay facts.

§7.10. Beyond the scope; A question asked during cross examination not related to the testimony given during direct examination.

§7.11. Badgering; A question antagonizing the witness.

§8. During any time when the witness is questioned; either counsel to the legal proceeding may raise an objection regarding a violation of procedures or rules of witness questioning.

§9. Expert Witnesses may also be admitted in accordance with the Evidence Act 2025, and the objections under §7.4, §7.5, and §7.9 shall not apply to these witnesses.

§10. Courts shall take Judicial Notice of the following facts, which shall not need to be proved –

(a) All laws, rules and Executive Orders presently or previously in force in SimDemocracy;

(b) Whether SimDemocracy is in a State of Caution or Emergency under the relevant Act;

(c) The President and other Officers of SimDemocracy;

(d) The existence of any other sovereign states recognized by the Government;

(e) The ordinary course of nature;

(f) Natural and artificial divisions of time;

(g) The meanings of English words;

(h) The commencement, continuance and termination of any hostility between the Government and any other country or body;

(i) All equitable estates, titles and rights, and all equitable duties and liabilities, appearing in the course of a civil trial;

(j) The proceedings, including messages sent, of any pre-trial or trial taking place within SimDemocracy;

(k) The proceedings within the Court of Review and the Supreme Court.

(l) All other matters which it is required by law to notice.

In all these cases, the court may resort for its aid to appropriate documents of reference.

§11. A fact admitted by both parties or their agents in writing need not be proved during trial, but the Judge may otherwise direct.

§11.1. A fact ascertained by redacted evidence need not be proved during trial.

§2. Part 3 Article 13 of the Courtroom Procedures Act 2025 shall be repealed in its entirety, and the articles that follow it shall be renumbered to reflect the change.

§3. Article 8 §1.3 of the Courtroom Procedures Act 2025 shall be amended to read:

§1.3. The prosecution shall present their documentary evidence, allowing the defense to cross-examine each article, and make main argumentation that the defense may respond to. The defense shall then do the same.

§4. Article 21 §1.2 of the Courtroom Procedures Act 2025 shall be amended to read:

§1.2. The Plaintiff shall state the cause of action in the claim, and admit for approval all documentary evidence, subpoenas, and witnesses intended to be used at trial. They may then make a motion for summary judgement, which may be responded to by the Defense.

§5. Article 21 §1.4 of the Courtroom Procedures Act 2025 shall be amended to read:

§1.4. If the Pretrial continues, the Defense shall admit for approval all documentary evidence, subpoenas, and witnesses intended to be used at trial. They may then make a motion for summary judgement, which may be responded to by the Plaintiff.

§6. Article 22 §1.3 of the Courtroom Procedures Act 2025 shall be amended to read:

§1.3 The plaintiff shall present their documentary evidence, allowing the defense to cross-examine each article, and make main argumentation that the defense may respond to. The defense shall then do the same.