

Courtroom Etiquette

How to Behave in Court

A real courtroom is **NOT** like a TV courtroom. When you handle your own case, you are expected to act professionally and courteously toward the judge, jury, other parties, and their attorneys. Be prepared, and present your case according to the rules.

If you are observing court proceedings or waiting for your case to be called, sit quietly and be respectful of the court proceedings.

Please enter and exit the courtroom quickly and quietly.

Eating, drinking, and chewing gum are not permitted while the court is in session. Cell phones are not allowed in the Judicial Center.

Things to Know Before Coming to Court

Our courts require staff and you to be prepared and to treat each other with respect. This includes:

- How you dress - clean clothes with no foul language, insults, or other negative words
- How you act - respect the judge and court staff, and everyone else in the courtroom, including jurors, witnesses, and the public.
- In trials and hearings, parties and lawyers must use surnames (not first names) to address adult witnesses, jurors, other parties, and lawyers.
- Speak clearly and loudly to make sure the judge and the court reporter are hearing what is being said.
- Only one person at a time may speak during a court proceeding. This ensures greater accuracy in making a record by audio and video recording equipment.
- Address the judge as "Your Honor" or "Judge." Address others as Mr. or Ms.

- Be respectful of the judge or hearing official, the court staff, attorneys and litigants. Maintain a respectful attitude at all times in the court building and in the courtrooms.