

COURTROOM PROTOCOL

LEGAL GUIDE



Arrive on Time

Show up early or on time. Being late can delay your case or lead to serious consequences. It also shows respect for the court.



Dress Appropriately

Wear neat, business-like clothes. Avoid shorts, hats, flip-flops, or shirts with offensive prints. How you dress reflects how seriously you take your case.



Address the Judge as “Your Honor” & Speak Only When Permitted

Always refer to the judge as “Your Honor” as a sign of respect. Do not interrupt proceedings; wait until you are specifically addressed or granted permission to speak.



No Eating, Drinking, or Use of Mobile Devices

Phones must be turned off at all times. Do not bring food, beverages, or chew gum in the courtroom. Such distractions are disruptive to the proceedings and may result in a formal admonishment.



Be Respectful

Stay calm and courteous to the judge, lawyers, staff, and others. Avoid eye-rolling, loud sighs, or side comments — these can hurt how you’re seen by the court.