

DECORUM IN THE COURTROOM
DO'S AND DON'TS FROM THE JUDGES

▪ **DO'S:**

- Dress appropriately; proper court attire is required.
 - Proper attire is business casual
 - Sandals, shorts, tank tops, or halter tops are not appropriate
 - Take off your hat and sunglasses when you enter the courtroom
- Be on time
- Turn off your cell phone when you enter the courtroom
- Be Prepared
 - Bring all the papers and documents you will need
 - Bring writing paper, and a pencil or pen to write with
- Use Appropriate Language
 - Foul language in court is never permitted
- Stand when you address the Court
- Address the judge as “Your Honor”, or “Judge”
 - Other parties are addressed as “Mr.” or “Mrs.”, or “Ms.”, for example; “Mr. Smith”, or “Mrs. Jones”, or “Ms. Wilson”.
- Listen Carefully
 - If you don’t understand something, ask for it to be repeated

▪ **DON'TS**

- Do not disrupt other proceedings in the court
 - If you must talk while waiting for your case to be called, quietly take your discussion outside the courtroom
- Do not bring children to Court Hearings or Status Conferences
 - Please make daycare arrangements accordingly
- Do not be disrespectful of the court
- Do not interrupt the judge