

Rules of Conduct and Attire

All persons present in the courtroom shall be neatly dressed in a manner that shows dignity and respect for the court.

Unacceptable Attire

The following will not be allowed:

- Shorts
- Cut-off clothing
- Loose-fitting or excessively baggy pants
- Oversized coats or jackets
- Hats
- Cropped shirts and muscle shirts
- Clothing associated with gang affiliation or attire featuring offensive, obscene, or suggestive language, slogans, images, or symbols.
- Provocative clothing intentionally styled or worn to evoke strong reactions or cause disruption.

Courtroom Conduct

Courtroom conduct extends to the reception area, foyer, hallways, jury room, any office space designated for the Justice Court, and the virtual courtroom.

1. All weapons are strictly prohibited in the courtroom and throughout the building, except for law enforcement personnel.
2. Cell phones, laptops, and tablets must remain off in the courtroom. All electronic devices, including pagers, must be set to silent mode.
3. Arrive on time.
4. Follow all instructions given by the bailiff.
5. Address the court as “Judge” or “Your Honor”. And refrain from arguing with the court.
6. Do not approach the judge’s bench without permission.
7. Racist, sexist, obscene, or profane language is prohibited unless it is directly relevant to a case and presented as part of factual evidence.
8. No chewing gum, food, or beverages are allowed in the courtroom.
9. Avoid any actions that may disturb or distract the court, attorneys, witnesses, or other court personnel.
10. Treat all courtroom and reception area property with respect. Do not write on posted papers or on furniture.
11. Recording devices are not permitted unless authorized by the judge.
12. Show respect to all court personnel at all times.
13. Participants in Zoom hearings may join via video or telephone. While attending remotely, they are considered present in court and must adhere to the same rules regarding attire, language, and background noise.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Visitors and Parties:

All cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices must be turned off or set to silent mode—not just low volume—while in the courtroom. Do not accept cell phone calls while you are in the courtroom. Do not text or engage in any other type of electronic communication from the courtroom without explicit permission to do so by the judge. Do not take photographs or any audio or visual recordings of the courtroom proceedings without express permission of the judge. Any cell phone used in violation of these rules may be confiscated by the court.

Attorney(s):

Attorneys must set all electronic devices to silent mode during hearings and turn them off if they become a distraction. Cell phone calls should not be answered while in the courtroom—if a call is necessary, step outside quietly to take it.

RECORDING/MEDIA:

No audio, video or photography is allowed in the courtroom and the hallways immediately outside the courtroom unless explicitly approved by the judge. Any unauthorized recording devices may be confiscated by the court.

SECURITY

All individuals entering the courtroom must first go through the security checkpoint and pass through metal detectors located at the courthouse entrance. Bringing firearms or other weapons into the courthouse is strictly prohibited under Sec. 46.03(3) of the Texas Penal Code. During screening, security personnel will require visitors to empty their pockets and place items in a tray for inspection. All belongings brought into the courthouse will be thoroughly examined before entry into the courtroom is permitted. Visitors should take this process into account when choosing what to wear or bring with them.

Participants may need to provide additional identification or contact details as required. The bailiff is responsible for courtroom security and has the authority to remove individuals who fail to comply with the courtroom decorum or rules.