

Judicial Standing Order No. 23

Rules of Attire and Conduct

The following general rules of attire and conduct shall apply to all proceedings when the Justice of the Peace Court is in session:

ATTIRE

The following attire is unacceptable for appearances in court:

1. Shorts and cut-offs;
2. Muscle shirts or tank-tops, clothing with offensive, vulgar, racist, sexist, obscene, or suggestive words, slogans, depictions, or pictures, including grotesque creatures;
3. Clothing that is dirty, torn, or ragged;
4. Clothing that is too tight or too short or immodest;
5. Hats (unless worn for medical or religious purposes);
6. All attorneys making an appearance in Court are expected to dress in appropriate business attire;

CONDUCT

Self-Represented litigants (individuals representing themselves without an attorney) should be prepared to present their cases in a proper manner. The Court is not permitted to assist or represent in any way you, or to instruct you on court procedure, rules of evidence or how to present and prove your case. If you are unprepared, unaware, or ignorant of the means and methods of presenting your case, it may adversely affect your case.

1. Be on time. The courtroom will open 15 minutes prior to docket call.
2. Do not argue with the Court.
3. Address the Court as “Judge” or “Your Honor”.
4. Address opposing parties, counsel, witnesses, and Court Officers as “Mr.”, “Ms.”, “Officer”, etc. Do not use first names unless otherwise instructed by the Court.
5. Do not read newspapers, magazines, books, etc. in the courtroom during proceedings.
6. Do not talk at the same time as the Court, attorney(s), witness(es), or other court personnel. The proceedings are being recorded and
7. Racist, sexist, obscene, or offensive language or gestures are prohibited unless it is pertinent to a case and is elicited and quoted from facts in the case.
8. Do not enter and depart the courtroom excessively.

9. Do not disturb or distract the court, counsels, witnesses, and other court personnel. Individuals who cannot comply with these rules should remain outside of the courtroom.
10. Do not approach the Judge's bench or Clerk's desk without permission from the Court. Do not rest arms or hands on the bench.
11. Leave all purses, bags, brief cases, etc. at the counsel table when you are called to the Judge's bench.
12. Have all necessary paperwork and documents (i.e., Driver's License, Insurance, evidence, etc.) ready when called to approach the Judge's bench.
13. Rise when the Judge enters the courtroom and remain standing until the Judge or Bailiff announces, "Be seated", or until the Judge is seated. Rise when the Judge exits the courtroom.
14. Do not bring food or drink into the courtroom unless you have permission from the Judge.
15. Turn all phones to silent or mute while in the courtroom and do not make or accept phone calls in the courtroom.

A violation of any of these rules could result in a charge of contempt of court punishable by a fine of \$100 or up to 3 days in jail of both.

IT IS SO ORDERED on this 5th, day of January, 2023.

Diane Dupnik
Justice of the Peace, Pct 1,
Aransas County, TX.