

Courtroom Decorum

All persons, whether lawyers, parties, witnesses, jurors, or spectators, conducting business, participating in trials, or otherwise attending proceedings in a courtroom or before the court in person or through a virtual hearing, shall conduct themselves in a manner respectful of the court's authority and function so as to maintain the dignity, integrity, decorum, seriousness and professional atmosphere of the court and the administration of justice.

1.1 Promptness

All parties shall be prompt in arriving for court and attending to court business.

1.2 Dress Code

Proper attire is required for all court proceedings. The following accessories and items of clothing are not permitted:

1. Clothing with vulgar, profane or obscene messages
2. Visible undergarments
3. Holes in clothing where skin is visible
4. Bare midriff
5. Head coverings other than for religious or medical purposes

The Judge shall have the discretion as to what will be acceptable attire in the courtroom.

1.3 Conduct Required Of All Persons Attending Court

Court is in session whenever the Judge is on the Bench. While court is in session, unless the Judge directs otherwise, the following conduct must be observed:

1. No eating, drinking, gum chewing, smoking, vaping or use of tobacco products
2. No loud noises or outbursts.
3. No standing in the courtroom, except when addressing the court, by direction of the Judge, when necessitated by the business of the court or if medically necessary.
4. No gestures, facial expressions or sounds indicating approval or disapproval of a ruling by the court or a comment on testimony of a witness.
5. No unattended children in the courtroom.
6. **All electronic devices must be turned off during court unless permission is given by the Judge.**
7. **No Briefcases, bags or purses:** As the courtroom is not equipped with metal detectors briefcases, bags or purses shall be prohibited from entry into the courtroom. The Judge may direct the Bailiff to make exception for a licensed Attorney having business with the Court.
8. Absolutely no weapons shall be brought into the courthouse, with the exception of those intended to be offered as evidence. Commissioned peace officers may bring weapons in the courtroom. Prohibited items include:
 - a) Illegal or Deadly Weapons designated as such by the Texas Penal Code
 - b) Clubs (batons, blackjacks, ASP's)
 - c) Knives of any kind, regardless of size or intended use
 - d) Chemical spray (mace, pepper spray)
 - e) Knuckles (any item that consists of finger rings and designed for striking)
 - f) Lighters
 - g) E-Cigarettes
 - h) Aerosol hair sprays
 - i) Corkscrews
 - j) Large nails, screws, letter openers, etc.
 - k) Razor Blades, box cutters
 - l) Pointed scissors
 - m) Heavy chain items (sometimes attached to wallets)
 - n) Glass items

Any other item the court security personnel, by use of his/her knowledge, experience and training, determines could be used as a weapon.

Order in the court shall be maintained at all times. Violation of the rule can result in a reprimand by the Judge, expulsion from the courtroom, or contempt of court.