

# PREPARING FOR COURT

## General Tips

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- Dress appropriately
  - Dress conservatively: closed-toe shoes, suit, dress pants (khakis are suitable), nice dress
  - Do not wear: Tank tops, explicit/inappropriate shirts, provocative clothing, flip flops, athletic wear, or hats
- Arrive at the courthouse early.
- Plan for delays with transportation, parking, and security.
  - Car trouble and accidents often hit at the worst possible time.
  - Parking around a courthouse can be difficult.
  - Plan extra time into your schedule for security screenings.
- When waiting outside of a courtroom, know that others will notice your conduct.
  - Be polite to everyone.
- If you absolutely cannot make your appearance due to circumstances out of your control, contact your lawyer immediately.

## WHILE IN COURT

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- Never bring food or beverages to a court.
- Do not bring children into a court.
- Turn off cellphones and other devices.
- Stand until the Judge instructs you to sit.
- Never interrupt anyone who is speaking.
- Only speak when asked a direct question.
- Do not argue with anyone, even if you strongly disagree.
- Be respectful to the judge.
  - If the judge asks you a question, stand and address the judge as, “your honor.”
  - If the judge asks a question, answer truthfully. Do not compromise your case or your safety by lying to a court.
- Maintain control over your emotions and refer questions to your attorney.

## After Court

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- Maintain control over your emotions, even outside the Courtroom or in the parking lot.
- Do not contact the court or the judge. Speak with your attorney instead.
- Your attorney will follow up with you and keep you informed regarding the next steps.

