

DECORUM ORDER HIGHLIGHT SUMMARY
33rd Judicial District Court

1. Each person assigned seating will be issued a tag indicating his/her seating assignment. That person will display the tag on the outside of his/her clothing and sit in that seat while in the courtroom.
2. Courtroom pass tags for a specific date are to be turned into the bailiff's desk upon leaving the courtroom and will be reallocated before the next half-day court session begins. Public seating will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Courtroom passes for the public will be distributed for the morning session from 8:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and for the afternoon session from 1:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Public passes will be distributed outside the 33rd District Courtroom. They must be returned to the bailiff outside the courtroom when you leave your designated session. If all the passes for a specific session are not distributed during the time period set out, the available passes may be obtained from the bailiff outside the 33rd District Courtroom.
3. All spectators, whether media, family, and Court Operations Director designees, must be seated before the Court is in session and must remain in the courtroom (except for emergencies) until the next recess is called. No spectators will routinely be admitted while Court is in session.
4. No member of the media, family, students, or public will be allowed beyond the bar (the partition separating the gallery from the inner section of the courtroom) at any time, except as permitted by the 33rd Presiding Judge's orders.
5. The media and the public are reminded that any attempt by anyone, without leave of the Court, to communicate with a member of the jury panel, juror or alternate, respecting the case prior to return of any final judgment in the trial on the merits and any attempt by anyone, without leave of the Court, to communicate with or influence a member of the jury once selected as a juror or alternate in the proceedings, until the return of any final judgment in the trial on the merits, may be punished as a criminal cause of action and as criminal contempt of court and such other sanctions as deemed by the 33rd Presiding Judge to be necessary for the due and proper administration of justice.
6. The courtroom will be cleared of media until thirty minutes before court is scheduled to begin and will be cleared of the public until fifteen minutes before court is scheduled to begin, for the duration of the luncheon recess, and no later than thirty minutes after adjournment. An exception to this rule may occur if the clerk for the court or court reporter needs additional time to exhibit evidence to the media after the end of the day recess, or if prior permission of the Judge is obtained for media set up.

COURTROOM ATTIRE AND ACCESSORIES

1. Persons in the courtroom must be dressed in appropriate courtroom attire. This means the best business attire that you have at your disposal. Gentlemen should, if available, wear

dress-collared shirt, tie, slacks, belt and suit jacket. Ladies should, if available, wear business dress, business dress suit or business dress pants suit. Student may wear school uniforms or other appropriate courtroom attire as instructed by your supervising faculty sponsor.

2. No signs, banners, company or media logos, messages, clothing with messages or other distracting, disruptive or potentially improperly prejudicial material may be brought into, worn, or displayed in the courtroom or security areas.
3. No cell phones, pagers, computers, cameras, web cams, recorders, or other equipment may be brought into the courtroom except as specifically permitted by the 33rd Presiding Judge.

COURTROOM DEMEANOR

1. Persons in the courtroom must remain silent during all proceedings. There will be no talking, shaking of heads of approval or disapproval of any statements, actions, rulings, testimony or proceedings, or any other signals or signs of approval or disapproval of the proceedings.
2. Children are only permitted in the courtroom if they can conform their demeanor to that required of the adults by the Court.
3. There will be no reading of newspapers, magazines, books, or other materials during the court proceedings in the courtroom.
4. There will be no drinks, snacks, chewing gum, smoking or chewing in the 33rd District Courtroom, except for water provided by the bailiff to the witnesses, jurors, or counsel with the permission of the 33rd Presiding Judge.
5. As in all cases, the atmosphere in the courtroom must be quiet, calm, and deliberative. Evidence in the case may be complex, graphic, emotional, and sometimes very tedious. All persons attending the trial must be willing to commit to a serious attitude if attending this trial.

SANCTIONS

There are no warnings or “first bites at the apple.” Any violation of the foregoing or other Court Orders or Plans, and any conduct the 33rd Presiding Judge finds disruptive or interruptive of the proceedings may result in:

1. An order of temporary or permanent exclusion of the offender from the courtroom and security areas.
2. An order of temporary or permanent exclusion of the media organization represented by the offender from the courtroom and security areas.

3. Contempt of Court sanctions carry with them confinement in the County Jail for up to six (6) months and a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each offense.
4. Such other sanctions as deemed necessary by the 33rd Presiding Judge to ensure the due and proper administration of justice.

**See full DECORUM AND MEDIA GUIDELINES ORDER and other orders as posted outside the District Courtroom, and as posted on the Court's web site at www.tinyurl.com/A8L9K.

** Also, see seating chart posted with this summary, if applicable.