

**REFUGIO COUNTY COURT  
RULES OF THE COURT**

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**\*All rules apply at all times when the Court is in session\***

**Dress Code**

All persons in the courtroom shall dress in a manner appropriate to the dignity and decorum of the courtroom setting. The following rules apply as *minimum standards*:

1. No clothing that advertises or promotes violence or is lewd, offensive, vulgar or obscene
2. No clothing which advertises or promotes alcohol, drugs or tobacco
3. No hats or caps
4. No pants that are excessively long or sit below the top of the hip line
5. No shorts, short dresses or short skirts
6. No sunglasses
7. No tube-tops, tank-tops, halters, backless or strapless tops, half-shirts, muscle shirts, crop-tops or any top that exposes the midriff, naval or bra, or any other tight or provocative tops
8. No visible undergarments or see-through garments
9. No flip-flops

**Attorneys:**

**Males:** Suit and tie, or business jacket and tie, dress pants & shoes, button-down shirt

**Females:** Business suit, dress or business skirt and blouse with jacket, pant suit, or dress slacks with business jacket

**Children** Please do not bring children in the courtroom. It is not an appropriate setting for children due to the types of cases that are handled by this Court. If you have no choice but to bring a child into the courtroom, please keep the child seated and quiet. Immediately remove any noisy or disruptive child from the courtroom.

**Addressing the Court**

1. Address the Judge as "Your Honor".
2. Address counsel and court staff as "sir" or "ma'am".
3. Answer appropriately with "yes" or "no", not "yeah" or "nah".
4. Do not lean on the Judge's bench.

**Conduct** Be respectful and quiet in the courtroom at all times. Be polite when speaking. Refrain from any gestures and any conduct that shows disrespect for the Court, counsel, litigants, witnesses, court staff, law enforcement personnel or other persons.

**Prohibited Conduct**

1. Absolutely no cell phones or beepers are allowed in the courtroom unless they are turned off. Should your cell phone or other electronic device ring during court proceedings, it will be confiscated.
2. All persons shall rise and be silent when the Judge enters and exits the courtroom and at such other times as the bailiff may instruct.
3. During any proceeding, no person, including attorneys, shall attempt to communicate with the prosecutors or court staff.
4. No food, chewing gum, beverages or paper cups are allowed in the courtroom. Any such items must be properly disposed of before entering the courtroom.
5. No propping of feet on chairs, tables or railings.
6. No loud talking, profanity or unnecessary noise is permitted.
7. No audio or video recording devices, radios, computers, cameras or other electronic devices are permitted in the courtroom unless the device is required for the court proceeding or unless the Court gives prior approval.
8. No tobacco use of any form is permitted.

**\*VIOLATIONS OF THESE RULES MAY RESULT IN REMOVAL FROM THE COURTROOM AND/OR CONTEMPT.**