

GUIDELINES FOR TRIAL/COURTROOM DECORUM IN DIVISION 6

1. These guidelines apply to all counsel appearing in Division 6 and, where applicable, witnesses and clients.
2. Unless excused by the Court, counsel shall stand: (a) as Court is opened, recessed, or adjourned; (b) when the jury enters and retires from the courtroom; (c) when addressing the Court.
3. Counsel may approach the witness without first asking permission from the Court for the purpose of handing the witness exhibits. In all other cases, the Court shall be asked for permission before counsel approaches the witness.
4. Counsel will request permission before approaching the bench. Counsel shall not use the bench or the ledge in front of the bench as a workspace, or lean on the bench. Jackson County Local Rule 9.6.2.
5. All remarks of counsel during arguments on motions, objections, etc., shall be addressed to the Court, not opposing counsel. In no case shall counsel make disparaging personal remarks about or display acrimony toward opposing counsel.
6. Opposing counsel, adverse witnesses, and parties will be treated with fairness and consideration. Abusive language or conduct, offensive personal references, etc., will not be tolerated. Counsel shall refrain from making facial expressions and gestures during the argument of opposing counsel, during the testimony of any witness, or in response to any ruling of the Court.
7. Counsel shall not interrupt the witness, opposing counsel, or the Court.
8. Unless the parties are otherwise directed, examination of witnesses shall consist of: (a) direct examination; (b) cross-examination; (c) re-direct examination. Re-cross examination may be permitted in the discretion of the Court. In any case, the party proffering the witness will be allowed final questioning.
9. Only one attorney for each party shall examine or cross-examine each witness. The attorney making any objections during direct examination shall be the attorney recognized for cross-examination.
10. In making objections in the hearing of the jury, counsel will state only the legal grounds for the objection, e.g., "hearsay," "relevance," etc. Further argument regarding the objection will take place at the bench and out of the hearing of the jury.

