

"ORDER IN THE COURT!"

A Guide for How to Dress, Act, and Navigate Emanuel County Magistrate Court

As the magistrate judge of Emanuel County, I'm presenting this etiquette guide to help you understand the expectations and standards of behavior while in court. It is designed to provide you with clear and practical information on maintaining the dignity of the court, appropriate attire, and respectful conduct during proceedings. Adhering to these guidelines ensures that the courtroom remains a place of order, respect, and fairness for all who enter.

- The dignity of the magistrate court must be respected and maintained at all times.
- Court security officers and court staff are authorized to inspect any item brought into the courtroom.
Courtroom attire should consist of clean, well-maintained clothing.
Refrain from wearing shorts, tank tops, hats, pajamas, or strong perfumes/colognes.
- Everyone in the courtroom, unless physically unable, must stand when the judges enter and remain standing until the presiding judge invites everyone to be seated. Similarly, when court adjourns, all must stand until the judges are no longer visible.
- Standing in the courtroom is permitted only at the discretion of the clerk. Chairs along the side walls of the spectator area are reserved for law enforcement and court staff.
During court sessions, only the parties before the bench should speak. There should be no cross-talk between parties, and all comments should be directed to the judge.
- Doorways and passageways must remain clear at all times.
- Conversations are not allowed in the courtroom. If you need to speak, please step outside, but try to minimize repeated entrances and exits.
- All cell phones and pagers must be turned off or set to silent before entering the courtroom.

Prohibited Items

Weapons of any kind, including but not limited to guns, knives, and scissors

- Recording devices and cameras, unless permitted by the judge
- Gum

Whether you're a participant in a case or a visitor, I encourage you to follow these practices whenever you are present in the courtroom. Your cooperation is essential in upholding the integrity of our judicial process and in ensuring that justice is served in an environment of respect and decorum.

Judge McWhorter