

COURTROOM EXPECTATIONS

These guidelines should be considered general, and not all inclusive. Please contact your Court Service Unit (CSU) for more specific information.

- Allow yourself ample time to arrive at your court appointment. Traffic, parking and security procedures can slow the process. If you do not show up or are going to be late, a bench warrant can be issued. If you cannot make your court appointment, notify the clerk of the court and your lawyer as soon as possible before the scheduled time. Remember to write down the name of the person you speak with.
- Only juveniles involved in the case, or whose presence is requested or required, should be brought to the courthouse.
- Dress appropriately for the courtroom. Ensure that your clothing does not appear to promote violence or hate of any kind. Business casual is appropriate for the courtroom.
- All persons entering the courthouse will pass through a metal detector. Handbags, briefcases, backpacks, etc. will be searched. Ensure you have brought in nothing which could be considered a possible weapon.
- Many courts will not allow cell phones in the courthouse. Check with your local CSU for guidance.
- Court appointments may be scheduled for specific times, but delays can occur. You may be at the courthouse for several hours.
- Speak clearly, so that your answers can be heard by all involved. This way, further questions or explanations may be unnecessary. Use courteous and appropriate language, such as “Yes, your honor,” and “No, your honor.”
- Respond to all the questions put to you by the court personnel, with advice from your attorney. If you believe you need more time with your attorney to talk about your defense, you can request it.

