



COUNTY COURT SMITH COUNTY

JOEL P. BAKER, JUDGE

General Rules of Courtroom Conduct

(a) All officers of the court except the Judge and jurors, and all other participants, except witnesses who have been placed under the rule, shall promptly enter the courtroom before the scheduled time for each court session. When the court is called to order, complete order should be observed.

(b) In the courtroom, there shall be:

- (1) no tobacco use;
- (2) no chewing gum use;
- (3) no food or drink;
- (4) no propping of feet on tables or chairs;
- (5) no noise or talking that interferes with court proceedings, including but not limited to cell phones and digital pagers.

(c) The Judge, attorneys, and other officers of the court will refer to and address other court officers or participants in the proceedings respectfully and impersonally, by using appropriate titles and surnames rather than first names;

(d) The oath will be administered in a manner calculated to impress the witness with the importance and solemnity of the promise to adhere to the truth; and

(e) All officers of the court and participants shall dress appropriately for court sessions;

- (1) **ABSOLUTELY NO SHORTS, CAPRI PANTS, MINI SKIRTS, OR TANK TOPS;**
- (2) **NO INAPPROPRIATE T-SHIRTS;**
- (3) **MEN SHALL REMOVE HATS OR BALL CAPS BEFORE ENTERING THE COURTROOM.**

Conduct of Attorneys

(a) Attorneys should always observe the letter and spirit of all canons of ethics, including those concerning *ex parte* communications with the Judge;

(b) **Attorneys should advise their clients and witnesses of local rules of Decorum that may be applicable;**

(c) All objections, arguments, and other comments by counsel shall be directed to the Judge, or jury and not to opposing counsel;

(e) Attorneys should not approach the bench without leave of the court and must never lean on the bench;