

# STATESBORO MUNICIPAL COURT

JUDGE W. KEITH BARBER

## RULES OF COURT CONDUCT

IF YOU ARE ATTENDING COURT, THE FOLLOWING IS IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE. THIS INFORMATION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE LEGAL ADVICE. IF YOU REQUIRE LEGAL ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONSULT AN ATTORNEY.

### WHEN APPEARING IN COURT:

- BE ON TIME
- COOPERATE WITH ANY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS
- THROW AWAY GUM, FOOD, AND DRINKS BEFORE ENTERING THE COURTROOM
- STAND WHEN THE JUDGE ENTERS AND LEAVES THE COURTROOM
- SPEAK CLEARLY WHEN YOU RESPOND TO THE JUDGE'S QUESTIONS
- ALWAYS ADDRESS THE JUDGE AS "YOUR HONOR"
- NEVER INTERRUPT THE JUDGE. IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF WHAT YOU HEARD, WAIT UNTIL THE JUDGE OR OTHER PERSON SPEAKING HAS FINISHED TALKING BEFORE ASKING A QUESTION
- ENTER AND LEAVE THE COURTROOM QUIETLY SO THAT YOU DO NOT DISTURB OTHERS
- ONLY APPROACH THE JUDGE'S BENCH WHEN INSTRUCTED TO DO SO

### PROHIBITED ITEMS (ITEMS THAT SHOULD NOT ENTER THE COURTROOM):

- ELECTRONIC RECORDING EQUIPMENT SUCH AS VIDEO OR VOICE RECORDERS, OR CAMERAS (UNLESS SPECIFICALLY APPROVED BY THE COURT)
- WEAPONS OF ANY KIND
- FOOD, BEVERAGES, CHEWING GUM, AND TOBACCO
- CELL PHONES AND MOBILE DEVICES



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## **DRESSING FOR COURT:**

IF YOU ARE APPEARING IN COURT YOU SHOULD DRESS IN A MANNER THAT SHOWS RESPECT FOR THE COURT. IF YOU ARE NOT DRESSED PROPERLY, YOU MAY BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE COURT AND RETURN AT A LATER DATE. THIS WILL DELAY YOUR HEARING AND REQUIRE YOU TO APPEAR IN COURT MORE THAN ONCE.

## **HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD NOT WEAR TO COURT:**

- HATS OR OTHER HEAD COVERINGS INSIDE THE COURTROOM (EXCEPT THOSE WORN FOR RELIGIOUS OR MEDICAL PURPOSES)
- SUNGLASSES
- CLOTHING DEPICTING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ACTS, PROFANITY, OR ILLEGAL DRUGS
- TUBE OR HALTER TOPS/ PLUNGING NECKLINES/ BARE MIDRIFTS
- RIPPED OR TORN JEANS
- MINISKIRTS OR SHORTS
- BAGGY PANTS THAT FALL BELOW THE WAIST
- MUSCLE SHIRTS OR OTHER CLOTHING USUALLY WORN AS UNDERGARMENTS

## **CHILDREN IN THE COURTROOM:**

ALTHOUGH CHILDREN MAY ATTEND COURT, GIVEN THE FORMAL NATURE OF COURT PROCEEDINGS AND SUBJECT MATTERS WHICH MAY BE INVOLVED, IT IS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR INFANTS OR SMALL CHILDREN.

## **DISRUPTION IN THE COURTROOM:**

ANYONE WHO DISRUPTS THE COURT, REGARDLESS OF AGE, MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE COURTROOM. WHETHER SUCH DISRUPTION WILL RESULT IN BEING HELD IN CONTEMPT (WHICH COULD INCLUDE JAIL TIME AND/OR FINE) IS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE JUDGE.

## **RESPECT:**

THE COURTROOM IS A PLACE OF ORDER AND STRUCTURE. YOU SHOULD AT ALL TIMES ACT IN A RESPECTFUL MANNER WHEN IN THE PRESENCE OF THE JUDGE, COURT STAFF, ATTORNEYS, COURT OFFICERS, AND OTHER PERSONS ATTENDING COURT. ONCE THE COURT HAS MADE A RULING IN YOUR CASE, CONTINUE TO BE RESPECTFUL AS YOU EXIT THE COURTROOM.