

# TIP 10

## Tips for Your Day in Court

Going to court may feel stressful. Remember, Marylanders just like you go to court every day. Here are a few tips for your day in court.

### Be on Time

- Be on time for your court date.
- Plan how you will get to the courthouse and get there early. Remember, you will need to go through security and find your courtroom.
- If you are running late, call the clerk's office and ask them to let the judge know you will be late.
- If you are late, the judge may still call your case and go on without you. You will not be able to present your evidence and arguments.

### Watch the Video



### Dress Appropriately and Speak Clearly

- Wear clothes that are professional and not distracting.
- Practice what you will say. Speak clearly and concisely. Do not vent; only state the facts relevant to your case.
- Be clear and specific on what you want the judge to order.
- Stand when you speak to the judge.

### Treat Others with Respect

- Call the judge "Your honor."
- Do not talk over people who are speaking. If you need to interject, say, "Excuse me, your Honor."
- Do not let the other party upset you. Remain calm and composed.
- Tell the truth. You will be under oath. If you know the judge misunderstood your meaning, politely correct their misunderstanding.

### Resources

- Find contact information for the clerk's office on the [list of court locations](https://mdcourts.gov/courtsdirectory) at <https://mdcourts.gov/courtsdirectory>.
- You can get assistance with preparing for your day in court at the [Maryland Court Help Center](https://mdcourts.gov/helpcenter) at 410-260-1392, or at [mdcourts.gov/helpcenter](https://mdcourts.gov/helpcenter).
- Read more about preparing for court with the People's Law Library's Prepare for Court articles at <https://peoples-law.org/cat/how-do-i/prepare-court>.



# Maryland Court Help

Free. Online. In Person. By Phone.