

# WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU COME TO COURT

- Arrive early on your court date. If you are not present when your case is called, your case could be dismissed, or the court could rule without hearing what you have to say.
- Do not appear in court wearing shorts, tank tops, bathing attire, shirts with suggestive slogans, overly revealing clothing or other inappropriate attire. Please ensure that your witnesses follow the same rules.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices must remain off and inoperable at all times in the courtroom.
- Food, drinks and chewing gum are not allowed in the courtroom
- Do not bring children to court on your hearing date.
- If you intend to present documents or other evidence (such as paystubs or photographs), have them with you on the hearing date and bring copies for the opposing party or parties. Items entered into evidence may not be returned to you.
- For all divorce cases – the Plaintiff must bring a witness over the age of eighteen (18) with personal knowledge as to the grounds for divorce. If the witness did not attend the wedding, the Plaintiff will need to bring a copy of the marriage certificate. The Court cannot grant an absolute divorce without corroborating testimony.
- If you need legal advice, you can consult with the family law attorney who is available for free consultation on the second floor of the courthouse through the Family Law Assistance Program. If you qualify financially, you may be eligible for representation through Shore Legal Access (410-690-8121). Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence provides advocacy and legal representation to victims of domestic violence (800-927-4673).