THORNTON MUNICIPAL COURT – POLICY AND ORDER OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE 2020-05

AMENDMENT Courtroom Decorum – In-person or Virtual Court Proceedings

The dignity of the Court is to be respected and maintained. The Court expects professionalism, civility, and proper courtroom decorum at all times, whether appearing in person or virtually.

1. No one may enter the Courtroom with food, drink, chewing gum or use of tobacco or vaping products. Water is permitted and must be in a clear container. Please dispose of such items prior to entry into the Courtroom.
2. Wear appropriate attire. While clothing need not be formal, no one will be allowed into the courtroom without shoes or a shirt. T-Shirts with offensive language or pictures are also not to be worn. Please remove hats upon entering the courtroom. Flip flops, crop tops, tank tops, shorts, or clothing that is excessively dirty, torn or soiled is not appropriate.
3. While in the courtroom, all cell phones and electronic devices are to be on silent.
4. While awaiting your turn to see the Judge, do not have conversations in the gallery. If you need to speak, please exit the courtroom for a few minutes. Court proceedings are audio recorded and any background noise can interfere with the recording.
5. We recognize at times it may be necessary to bring children to court. Please monitor their behavior and keep them as quiet as possible. If a child becomes noisy or disruptive, you and your child may be asked to exit the courtroom.
6. Recording, broadcasting, or photography is prohibited in the courtrooms without prior Court approval.

COVID advisement:

1. Persons may voluntarily choose to wear a mask and/or distance themselves among others in the courthouse.
2. Those who feel ill, have been exposed to COVID-19, or are in a high-risk classification are strongly recommended to wear a mask.
3. Those who have tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 10 days should not enter the courthouse and are directed to immediately contact the Court to receive information on how to proceed.

Virtual appearances:

1. Be on time, prepared to take down information, and to provide answers to the Judge's questions.
2. Follow the virtual platform directions provided.
3. Be in a location with strong cellular or internet service.
4. Identify yourself when in the virtual meeting by typing in your full legal name.
5. Dress appropriately for Court as indicated above.
6. Eliminate distractions. Please find a quiet area, good lighting and minimize interruptions by others. If the Judge is unable to hear you due to noise or distractions in the background, your case will be rescheduled.
7. Put your cell phones and other technology in silent mode during the virtual Court proceeding.
8. Mute your audio setting until it is your turn to speak. You may also turn off your video until your case is called.
9. Be courteous and respectful to all virtual court participants. Do not talk over anyone else and do not walk around or step away during a virtual hearing. If you need to divert your attention away from the screen, advise the Judge and stop the video.
10. No driving: Participants should not attend court proceedings while driving. Your full attention on your legal matter is required.
11. Your case may not be called right away and may take longer than if you were physically present. Please be patient.
12. Making any video or audio recordings of court proceedings is strictly prohibited.

Ordered this 20th day of October 2022

BY THE COURT



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Tiffany Sorice
Presiding Judge

Original effective date: June 18, 2020
Previous amendments: June 1, 2021, June 21, 2021, September 20, 2021, December 15, 2021