

**Charles C. Merrell  
Supreme Court, Lewis County**

**Rules of  
Courtroom Etiquette**

1. **Disruptive behavior such as talking, laughing, or shouting will not be tolerated.**  
Court proceedings are being recorded by a court reporter, and silence in the courtroom is a necessity. Unless addressing the court, **ALL** other conversations should be carried on outside the courtroom. All statements on the record shall be addressed to the court and not to other litigants.
2. **Use of cellular phones, pagers, and cameras are prohibited in the courtroom.**  
All phones **MUST** be turned off or placed in a silent/vibrate mode, or they are subject to confiscation by the Court Security Officers.
3. **Unless otherwise approved by the Court, in writing, the use of recording devices in the courtroom is prohibited.**
4. **Weapons of any sort are prohibited.**
5. **Timely arrival is appreciated.**  
Entering the courtroom after the judge has taken the bench is disruptive and an inconvenience to your fellow attorneys, courtroom staff, and the court. Please make every effort to be in Court timely.
6. **Eating, drinking, and chewing gum are prohibited in the courtroom.**
7. **Dress appropriately, and instruct clients to dress appropriately if they will be appearing in the courtroom.**  
All persons entering the courtroom shall be dressed in clothing reasonably befitting the dignity and solemnity of the court. Clothing should be neat and clean. Hats and sunglasses should be removed upon entering the courtroom. Muscle shirts, tank tops, halter tops, tube tops, shorts, cut-offs, mini-skirts and flip-flops are **NOT** allowed. Facial piercings, with the exception of modest ear piercings, are to be removed prior to entering the courtroom.
8. **Children may be present in the courtroom. If, however, they disturb the proceedings, they must be removed from the courtroom.**  
Parties with children may wait in the hallway if they have notified the Court Officer/Court Attendant ahead of time of their presence, and their case name and number. Parties so notifying the Court Officer/Court Attendant prior to waiting outside will be advised when their case is called.
9. **Stand when addressing the court, unless otherwise advised.**  
Please advise the judge if you have a disability that would make this difficult.
10. **Be respectful of the Judge, the court staff, and opposing counsel.**  
Treat the court, court staff, and your opposing counsel as you wish to be treated - with respect and dignity.
11. **Maintain a minimum level of formality.**  
In Court and on the record, opposing counsel should not be referred to on a first name basis.