

State of Louisiana  
Parish of Caddo  
First Judicial District Court  
All matters before Judge Brady O'Callaghan

**Court's Standing Order for Attorney and Litigant Decorum in Trial Appearances**

The court adopts the following standing order to safeguard the dignity of all trial proceedings.

1.

Prior to trial, counsel shall test all electronic equipment to be used in the courtroom. Counsel may request the courtroom be opened early in order to facilitate this. The court will not permit recesses or delays due to counsels' lack of preparedness.

2.

All persons present with counsel shall be identified to the court. This includes litigants and counsel staff. Any person other than litigants and their attorney(s) of record must have prior express permission from this court to sit at counsel table.

Any staff present to assist counsel shall be held to the same high standard of courtroom decorum and dress as counsel.

3.

Counsel, their staff, litigants, and witnesses shall be in professional attire. No tank tops, ball caps, or other overly casual clothing will be permitted. Clothing shall not be extreme or distracting.

Counsel may have appropriate beverages at counsel table. No food or gum is permitted.

Counsel shall advise all parties and witnesses of these rules.

4.

Counsel shall have their witnesses available in order to adduce expedient testimony. Except for good cause shown, the court will not permit trial recesses due to the unavailability of witnesses.

5.

Unless discussed with the court prior to the commencement of trial, parties should be prepared to provide exhibits to the clerk at the time they offer the exhibit into evidence.

Exhibits shall be clearly marked.

6.

Counsel shall not approach the witness stand or the bench without express leave of court.

Counsel shall not request to approach a witness with any exhibit prior to showing the exhibit to opposing counsel, indicating counsel has done so on the record, and affording opposing counsel time to voice an objection.

Counsel shall not conduct examination at the witness stand for any more time than is absolutely necessary.

Counsel shall review and comply with District Court Rule 6.2, particularly paragraphs (d)-(i).

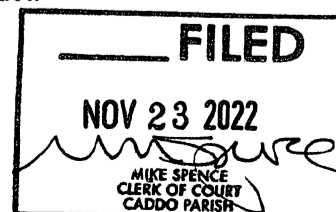
7.

No party other than the court or authorized court staff may record the proceedings.

8.

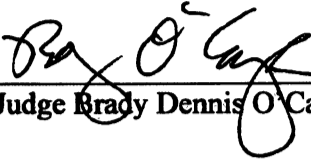
This order shall be applied by the court in a manner informed by the principles of the Louisiana Code of Evidence, Code of Civil Procedure, and the Code of Judicial Conduct.

9.



This standing order shall remain in effect for all trials before the court until further order is issued or this order is rescinded by this court or a higher court. If the First Judicial District Court *en banc* adopts a local rule, this order shall remain in effect to the full extent it does not contradict any such local rule.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge Brady Dennis O'Callaghan

IN RE:

ALL MATTERS

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

BEFORE JUDGE O'CALLAGHAN

CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

**Court's Standing Order for Attorney and Litigant Decorum in Trial Appearances**

The court adopts the following standing order to safeguard the dignity of all trial proceedings.

1.

Prior to trial, counsel shall test all electronic equipment to be used in the courtroom. Counsel may request the courtroom be opened early in order to facilitate this. The court will not permit recesses or delays due to the failure of such equipment if it was not tested in place prior to the commitment of trial.

2.

All persons present with counsel shall be identified to the court. This includes litigants and counsel staff. Any person other than litigants and their attorney(s) of record must have prior express permission from this court to sit at counsel table.

Any staff present to assist counsel shall be held to the same high standard of courtroom decorum and dress as counsel.

3.

Counsel, their staff, litigants, and witnesses shall be in professional attire. No tank tops, ball caps, or other overly casual clothing will be permitted. Clothing shall not be extreme or distracting.

4.

Counsel shall have their witnesses available in order to adduce testimony expediently. Except for good cause shown, the court will not permit trial recesses due to the unavailability of witnesses unless such delays were approved in advance.

5.

Counsel shall not approach the witness stand without express leave of court.

Counsel shall not request to approach a witness with any exhibit prior to showing the exhibit to opposing counsel and affording opposing counsel time to voice an objection. Counsel shall memorialize for the record that they are showing the item to opposing counsel by stating that fact simultaneously to showing the item.

Counsel shall not conduct examination at the witness stand for any more time than is absolutely necessary. If counsel wishes to review a document with a witness, counsel should have a copy for the witness to prevent conducting examination at the stand. Counsel should be prepared with multiple copies of documents as necessary.

6.

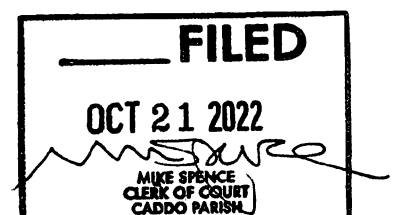
No one other than the court or court staff may record the proceedings. Violation of this order shall be a contempt of court.

7.

No gum shall be chewed in the courtroom. No food shall be consumed in the courtroom during trial.

8.

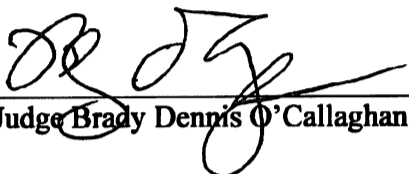
This order shall be applied by the court in a manner informed by the principles of the Louisiana Code of Evidence, Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure as applicable, the Code of Judicial Conduct, and the Code of Professional Responsibility.



9.

This standing order shall remain in effect for all trials before the court until further order is issued or this order is rescinded by this court or a higher court. If the First Judicial District Court *en banc* adopts a local rule, this order shall remain in effect to the full extent it does not contradict any such local rule.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this \_\_\_\_ day of October, 2022.



Judge Brady Dennis O'Callaghan