

# Getting Ready for Court

It is important to prepare for court, especially if you are coming to court without a lawyer. Follow the tips below to help you get ready for your court date.

## BEFORE YOUR COURT DATE



**Learn** as much as you can about the law that applies to your case.



**Watch** or **attend** a hearing to see how a court process works.



**Call** the court ahead of time if you need an interpreter or any other accommodations.



**Make** copies of all of the documents for your case and **provide** copies to the other side.



**Read** and **organize** all your documents and **be familiar** with those the other side has provided.



**Write out** all the questions you want to ask in court as well as the main points you want to make.



**Make sure** any witnesses you have will be in court on your court date.

## ON YOUR COURT DATE



**Bring** all of your prepared paperwork with you.



**Arrive early** so that you will have plenty of time to go through security and **plan** for delays.



**Dress appropriately:** Wear clothing that is respectful of the court.



**Remain quiet** unless it is your turn to speak and don't interrupt.



**Always refer** to the judge as "Your Honor" or "Judge."



**Be prepared** to provide a brief summary of your side of the case at the beginning and a final summary of your case at the end.



**Make sure** to have all of the questions you want to ask ready, including those for the other side.

## More Information

For more information, go to <https://www.courts.nh.gov/self-help/getting-started/preparing-court>.

