

RULES OF CONDUCT AND COURT DECORUM FOR THE CITY OF ALVIN MUNICIPAL COURT

AUTHORITY OF RULES

Under the inherent power and duty of all Texas Courts as codified in Section 21.002, Government Code, the following Rules of Conduct and Decorum shall apply and govern any and all proceedings held before the Municipal Court of the City of Alvin, Brazoria County, State of Texas.

FORMAL OPENING

Each session of court shall be brought to order by formal announcement by the Bailiff of the Court, requiring all to rise as the Judge takes the bench.

CONDUCT REQUIRED OF ALL PERSONS WHILE ATTENDING COURT

While Court is in session there shall be:

No Smoking or use of tobacco products

No chewing gum or candy

No reading newspapers or magazines

No talking or loud noises

No food or beverages

No leaning on the bench

No gestures, facial expressions, or sounds indicating approval or disapproval

No inappropriate attire including, but not limited to:

-Tank top

-Muscle shirts

-Flip flops

-Vulgar or offensive language on shirts

-Shorts unless part of a work uniform and otherwise appropriate

-Hats

-Sunglasses

-No video or audio recording equipment of any kind shall be turned on in the Courtroom without the prior approval of the Judge. Such equipment includes but is not limited to: video camera, still cameras, and all audio recording devices.

-NO PORTABLE PHONES MAY BE USED IN THE COURT ROOM

-NO WEAPONS ARE PERMITTED EXCEPT THOSE CARRIED OR POSSESSED BY COMMISSIONED PEACE OFFICER(S).

-Disruptive children may be asked to step out of the court room.

CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS OF COUNSEL AND PRO SE DEFENDANTS

-Attorneys shall observe the letter and spirit of the canons of ethics, including those concerning improper *ex parte* communications with the Judge and with those dealing with discussions of cases with representative of the media.

-Attorneys must remain with their client(s) until all paperwork is completed/signed.

-*Pro Se* Defendants shall conform their behavior to all provisions applicable to Counsel.

-Request for a language interpreter will be made at the time a plea is entered.

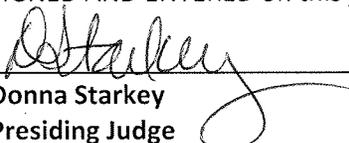
-All remarks of counsel to the court shall be addressed to the Court formally.

-All parties shall be prompt in arriving for Court and in attending to Court business.

-Counsel shall not lean on the bench or engage the Court in a confidential manner.

Court Clerks are prohibited by law from giving legal advice. Reliance upon a police officer's verbal statement(s) regarding disposition of an offense is not binding upon the court.

SIGNED AND ENTERED on this 18 day February, 2015



Donna Starkey
Presiding Judge