

# Justice of the Peace #1 - Courtroom Attire

The Texas Judicial System has three levels of trial court – district, county, and justice or municipal and two appellate courts. The justice of the peace falls into the justice court. This court has the most uniform court in the state.

Each county is required to have a justice of the peace, and generally there is one for each precinct. The precincts are based on population. These precincts can be changed through redistricting by the commissioners court.

The justice court has jurisdiction over civil, small claims, and eviction suits up to \$10,000 exclusive of interest. Because the justice court is not a court of record, any appeal to county court is trial de novo, or a new trial.

## Courtroom Attire:

All PERSONS present in the Courtroom shall be dressed in a manner that shows dignity and respect for the Court. Unacceptable attire includes:

- Shorts, cut-offs, baggy pants, flip-flop style shoes, or hats.
- Muscle shirts, T-shirts, clothing indicating gang affiliation or other clothing with offensive, vulgar, racist, sexist, obscene, suggestive words, slogans, depictions, or pictures, including grotesque creatures. Clothing should be neat and clean if at all possible. **ALL SHIRTS MUST BE TUCKED INSIDE PANTS!**
- Provocative clothing designed or styled, or worn to provoke emotion or disrupt or distract.

### Courtroom Conduct:

**Also includes the reception/foyer area, jury room, and/or any office space assigned to the Justice Court.**

PRO SE parties (non-attorneys representing themselves) should be prepared to present their cases in proper manner. It is not the court's duty to neither represent you nor instruct you on evidence, rules, or how to present and prove your case. If you are unprepared, unaware and not knowledgeable as to presenting your case, you may lose your case.

1. Weapons are prohibited in the courtroom and this building except for law enforcement personnel. **YOU ARE SUBJECT TO SEARCH!**
2. Be on time.
3. Rise when the Judge enters and remains standing until the Judge or bailiff announces "Be seated", or until the Judge is seated. Rise when the Judge exits the courtroom.
4. Do not argue with the court.

5. **Do not approach the Judge's bench without permission.** Do not rest arms on the bench.
6. Do not bring drink or food items into the Courtroom.
7. Do not talk at the same time as the court, opposing counsel, or witnesses. Courtroom visitors should not engage in excessive, loud talk or conversation.
8. Racist, sexist, obscene, or profane language is prohibited unless it is pertinent to a case, and is elicited and quoting from facts in the case.
9. Do not enter or depart the courtroom excessively and do not slam the doors.
10. Do nothing to disturb or distract the court, counsels, witnesses, or other court personnel.
11. It is normally inappropriate to bring small infants or young children into a court proceeding. Please refrain from doing so unless the presence of the child is necessary for the proceeding.
12. **Pagers and cellular phones are inappropriate in the Courtroom. Please turn them off before entering the Courtroom.**
13. All property in the Courtroom and reception areas must be treated with respect. No writing on any papers posted or on any furniture is allowed.

No recording devices are allowed without judicial approval.