

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

I. AUTHORITY FOR 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.

II. 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.

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

III. CONDUCT REQUIRED OF ALL PERSONS WHILE ATTENDING COURT

While Court is in session there shall be:

- A. No Smoking, tobacco products, electronic cigarettes and/or smokeless tobacco
- B. No chewing gum or candy.
- C. No reading newspapers or magazines.
- D. No talking or loud noises.
- E. No food or beverages.
- F. No leaning on the bench.
- G. 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
- H. Disruptive children may be asked to step out of the court room.
- I. Electronic devices must be turned off.

IV. NO INAPPROPRIATE ATTIRE INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- A. Tank tops
- B. Muscle shirts
- C. Flip flops
- D. Vulgar, offensive language alcohol/drug related clothing
- E. Shorts
- F. Hats
- G. Sunglasses
- H: Backpacks/over-sized bags

V. CONDUCT REQUIREMENT OF COUNSEL AND *PRO SE* DEFENDANTS

- A. 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 representatives of the media.
- B. Attorneys must remain with their client(s) until all paperwork is completed and signed.
- C. *Pro Se* Defendants (defendants acting as their own counsel) shall conform their behavior to all provisions applicable to Counsel.
- D. Request for a language interpreter should be made at the time a plea is entered or prior to the court hearing.
- E. All remarks of counsel to the court shall be addressed to the Court formally.
- F. All parties shall be prompt in arriving for Court and in attending to Court business.
- G. Counsel shall not lean on the bench, sit on rails or tables, or engage the Court in a confidential manner.
- H. Once a party has entered the courtroom and is appearing before the Court, he/she shall not leave without obtaining permission from the Court.

- I. The Court may enforce these rules of conduct and decorum by appropriate action or sanctions.
- J. Counsel shall not approach the bench except with permission or on request of the Court.
- K. Nothing herein shall prevent or prohibit the further adoption of additional rules of decorum.

Court Clerks are prohibited by law from giving legal advice.

**Deanie King
Presiding Judge
10-24-18**