

# 5 Things You Should Know Before Appearing In Court.





## 5 Things You Should Know Before Appearing In Court.

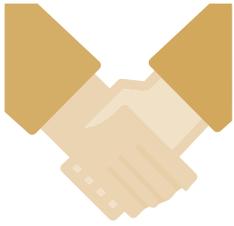
Heading into court can be a daunting experience. Depending on the legal situation you face, you could have a lot at stake, which can cause stress and nerves.

We believe you should have an understanding of what lies ahead and be ready, which is why we created this free eGuide.

This free eGuide provides 5 simple tips you can use to get ready for your court appearance. With these tips, you can feel more prepared for the big day.

There are several items listed in this guide you can do ahead of time to make sure your court appearance goes as smoothly as possible. We will discuss everything from how you should dress, how to get your witnesses to show up on time, courtroom etiquette, and more.

Let's review a few tips to know before appearing in court.



## TIP NUMBER 1

# Have a Good Lawyer

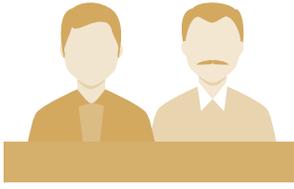
The fear of losing assets, going through child custody changes, or being denied support can be worrisome. We strongly encourage you to hire an attorney to represent you in divorce situations.

Lawyers spend years learning about the law and have an extensive knowledge base.

A lawyer has training and experience that prepares them to guide you through the court process. Having an attorney who can interpret the law and understand the details makes it easier for you to keep up with any changes and decisions.

Your lawyer can build a strong, strategic case for you and keep you on track in terms of paperwork, evidence, and deadlines.

Having a lawyer can also help prevent future problems, especially when it comes to contracts and agreements. **Angela Hatley** is ready to represent you and will work hard to protect you throughout the legal process.



## TIP NUMBER 2

# Make Sure Your Witnesses Show Up and On Time

Witnesses can be an asset to your case since they may provide testimony and strengthen your argument. If you have witnesses who are friends or acquaintances, be sure they know all the important details such as when and where they need to arrive for court.

Give your witnesses your trial date and the address of the courthouse ahead of time. This allows your witnesses to plan and make personal arrangements for transportation, time off work, or child care that might otherwise prevent them from serving as a witness.

Another type of witness that may help your case is an expert witness or professional. Your attorney will likely be able to employ their own network to find someone who can testify against more technical arguments made by opposing counsel.



### TIP NUMBER 3

## Dress Your Best

The old adage “your first impression is your last impression” is important to keep in mind when dressing for court. It can only take 7 seconds for a first impression to be made.

It is important to both present yourself well and show respect for the court.

Your hearing isn't the time to try a daring new look. You'll want to be dressed professionally and modestly for your court appearance. Choose something on the formal side you are comfortable in. Dress pants and a nice blouse or collared shirt are acceptable. Many also choose to wear ties or even a suit.

Whatever you decide to wear, be sure it is appropriate and professional looking.

Besides your clothing, you'll want to ensure your hair and overall appearance is neat and clean.



## TIP NUMBER 4

## Know Courtroom Etiquette

Watching courtroom scenes in movies and television give you a glimpse into what goes into courtroom etiquette. There are particular ways to address the judge and speak about others.

It's important to remember that only one person can speak at a time and you should never interrupt anyone - especially the judge.

You'll want to speak clearly and use proper grammar when providing testimony or answering questions. When asked questions, keep your answers short and simple. You don't want to do more than answer the question that was asked. Your lawyer can prepare you best for how to act in the courtroom.

Many times, courtrooms do not allow cell phones. If you're able to have your phone, be sure it is turned off.

In general, you will want to be on your best behavior throughout your trial.

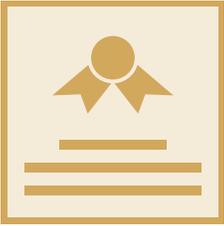


## TIP NUMBER 5

## Rehearse Your Testimony

When it comes time to give your version of events, it's important to know the details and not leave anything out. Oftentimes, people will become nervous once they are called to testify and forget what they wanted to say.

Take the time to practice your testimony and prepare before your hearing. The length of your testimony isn't as crucial as making sure you cover the main points of your side.



## CONCLUSION

# Hiring Your Attorney

Hiring an attorney is an investment, both personally and monetarily. Many lawyers will offer a consultation before a client hires them, which can give you an idea of what your case entails and who you want to hire as your lawyer. In addition, depending on the type of case, there's a possibility that hiring a lawyer could save you time, money, and heartache.

The **Hatley Law Firm** is well recognized in Fayetteville, North Carolina and surrounding areas as one of the top practices for Family Law and Military Divorce.

The **Hatley Law Firm** will work hard to protect you and your family throughout the legal process inside and outside of the courtroom.

Contact the **Hatley Law Firm** today at (910) 485-8888 and schedule your initial consultation to start taking control of your future.

## CONTACT US

We represent clients in Cumberland County, North Carolina in the areas of Separation Agreements, Divorce, Child Custody, Child Support, Alimony, Property Division, Military Divorce, and more. **Call The Hatley Law Firm Office to set up your initial consultation appointment, today.**

THE **HATLEY**  
LAW FIRM

912 Hay Street  
Fayetteville, NC 28305  
HatleyLawFirm.com  
(910) 485-8888

DISCLAIMER: The information found on HatleyLawFirm.com and this eGuide article pertains to North Carolina Law only. It is a free public informational article. It is not legal advice about a legal problem and does not create an attorney-client relationship, nor does it promise any legal outcomes. The thoughts and commentary about the law contained on this article is provided as a service to the community, and does not constitute solicitation or provision of legal advice. The facts of an individual case must be reviewed by an independent counsel of your choice. Our generalized statements may not appertain to your case. We provide this general legal information on an 'as-is' basis. Changes in law could make parts of this article's content obsolete. The reader is advised to check for changes to current law and to consult with a qualified attorney on any legal issue. We make no warranties and disclaim liability for damages resulting from its use. Other links/websites/additional resources found on this article are not endorsements and the Hatley Law Firm makes no representation of their services.

HatleyLawFirm.com | (910) 485-8888