

Why is it important that you dress appropriately for court?

Court is a formal, serious event. When you dress the right way for court, it shows that you take the court process seriously and shows that you have respect for the court. To dress the wrong way is a sign that you do not take the court seriously and that you lack respect for the court.

How should you dress for court?

Dress like you would dress when going to church or going to a job interview. You should come to court in clothing that is simple, neat, clean, pressed, and non-revealing. Hair should be clean, combed, and out of your eyes. Males should be clean shaven.

How should you act in court?

You should show respect to the judge and everyone in the court room.

You should remain quiet while waiting for your case. Court is not a time to hang out with your friends. Avoid talking to friends you see at court.

Other things to remember:

The courtroom is often very cold, so keep this in mind when choosing what you will wear.

Throw gum out before you get to court.

Don't take anything into the courthouse that could be considered a weapon. This includes pocket knives and fingernail files.

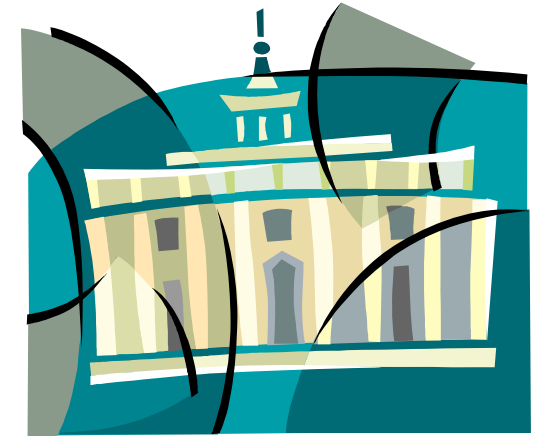
Cell phones should be kept off at all times in court. Your cell phone may be taken from you if it goes off during court.



This guide is available online at www.swfljac.org/dress.

Juvenile Assessment Center of Lee County
2107 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Phone: (239) 258-3450
www.swfljac.org

What to Wear and What Not to Wear in Court



A guide for youth
attending juvenile court

What should I not wear to court?

Do not wear revealing clothing.



Do not wear shorts or short skirts.



Do not wear halter tops, tops cut low in front, spaghetti strap tops/ tube tops, or short tops that do not cover the stomach and back.



Do not wear flip flops or house slippers. Avoid wearing sneakers or shoes with very tall heels.

Do not come to court with your underwear showing. Pants should be worn at the waist.



Do not wear tank tops or muscle shirts.



Do not wear stained, dirty, wrinkled, or ripped clothing.

Do not wear pajamas.

Do not wear clothes that are clearly too big for you.



Do not wear a hat, scarf, headband, do-rag, or bandana. Avoid wearing tee shirts.

Never wear clothing or jewelry with vulgar, obscene, or inappropriate pictures or wording. Examples of this are pot leaves, beer advertising, and pictures of obscene gestures. Never wear gang paraphernalia.

Do not wear heavy jewelry or gold/diamond grills.



Note: Some of the clothes listed above may be clothes you wear most of the time, but they are not appropriate for court.

What should I wear to court?

Males: Long pants worn at the waist with a belt, if needed. Shirts that are buttoned up with shirt tails tucked in.



Females: Dresses, long pants or skirts with blouses or sweaters.



If you don't have the most appropriate clothing, don't skip court because of that. Wear what you have, but do your best to be clean and presentable.