

Respect and Civility Order

This Court is, first and foremost, a civil court. In accordance with the Preamble to the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct, attorneys are not only representatives of clients, but are also officers of the legal system and public citizens having special responsibility for the quality of justice. Preamble [1]. The Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct contain guidance on attorney behavior and this Court will hold itself and all those before it to those professional standards. By way of example, attorneys may not use the law's procedures for illegitimate purposes or to harass or intimidate others. Preamble [5]. Colo. RPC 4.4. Attorneys are expected to demonstrate respect for the legal system and for those who serve it, including judges, other lawyers, and public officials. Preamble [5]. Those before the Court may not engage in conduct that involves dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, Colo. RPC 8.4(c), and no person may engage in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. Colo. RPC 8.4(d).

No person before this Court may engage in conduct that “*exhibits or is intended to appeal to or engender bias* against a person on account of that person's race, gender, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status, whether that conduct is directed to other counsel, court personnel, witnesses, parties, judges, judicial officers, or any persons involved in the legal process.” Colo. RPC 8.4(g) (emphasis added). *See also* Colo. RPC 4.4(a) (“In representing a client, a lawyer shall not use means that have no substantial purpose other than to embarrass, delay, or burden a third person, or use methods of obtaining evidence that violate the legal rights of such a person.”).

Consistent with Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct, this Court has the following expectations:

1. **Neutralized titles and honorifics will be used whenever practicable and until a person has identified how that person wishes to be identified.** By way of example and until you know how a person wishes to be identified, please use:
 - a. “Counselor Garcia”,
 - b. “Witness Smith”,
 - c. “Juror Thompson”,
 - d. “people of the jury”,
 - e. “jurors”

If an honorific, including, but not limited to, a gender-, rank-, or role-specific honorific, is appropriate under the circumstances, please first ask the person what honorific they would like used. All those in the courtroom or in a case will respect that person's wishes and will use their best effort to comply with that person's wishes. If there is a dispute on the appropriate honorific, the parties will use neutralized titles and honorifics for that person, as described above.

2. Please pronounce all names correctly. If you are unsure as to pronunciation, please ask for a phonetic pronunciation respectfully and endeavor to properly pronounce everyone's name.

3. If personal identity characteristics (race, gender, gender identity and/or expression, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status) are relevant to the matter, **please ask the person how they wish to be identified..** That person's answer will control, and all involved will use best efforts to comply with that person's wishes. **If personal identity characteristics are not relevant to the dispute and/or a pending matter, all efforts will be made to avoid using them.**

The Court expects civility, professionalism, respect, and adherence to the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct among parties, both in and outside of the courtroom, from all counsel and all parties. The Court will not tolerate rudeness, aggressive tactics, engendered bias, or personal attacks during the case. Counsel and parties are expected to always treat the Court and its staff, opposing counsel, parties, witnesses, jurors, and the court staff with courtesy and respect consistent with this Order and the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct. This applies to all conduct and communications, verbal and nonverbal, written and oral, in and out of the courtroom. Attempts to harass or intimidate by threatening to seek meritless sanctions are contrary to the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct and will not be tolerated.

Expressions of opinion that tend to denigrate another's integrity are not persuasive, will not be well-received, and are more likely to reflect more negatively on the author/speaker than on the object of the remark. Adjectives, both in written pleadings and oral communications, should be used sparingly and never in a manner that maligns, denigrates, engenders bias, or otherwise attacks opposing counsel or any person involved in the case. The Court will address conduct that is contrary to this Order and apply enforcement mechanisms as necessary.