

DECORUM ORDER FOR DIVISION N

This Court often deals with many issues that are sensitive in nature. Considering this, the Court has set forth rules of conduct and guidelines designed to govern the expectations of parties so that the decorum of the Court and Court Staff will be maintained throughout all of our proceedings.

The purpose of this Order is to ensure that all parties and Court Staff are treated fairly, with equality, compassion, and respect. It is therefore Ordered that the following rules are in effect for all litigants.

Court Staff will provide answers to basic procedural questions that apply to all cases; for example, date of hearings, where to appear, what to bring when you appear for your proceeding, and any ADA accommodations that may be needed for a party to participate in litigation. **Court staff cannot provide legal advice on any case. Additionally, Court staff cannot make any legal conclusions regarding Orders in any Court cases.**

When any *pro se* party is in need of legal advice, they may rely on the Court's Legal Resource Guide (available upon request) in researching legal questions for their respective cases, or they may seek independent legal advice on their own. We cannot recommend an attorney for your case.

While the Court welcomes inquiries, questions that are repetitive, duplicitous, or questions being asked of staff that constitute legal advice or that call for a legal conclusion, either through voicemail messages, emails, or harassing behavior, may result in the Court issuing an Order that communication with the Court and its staff may only be through writing and in a limited capacity.

Everyone is reminded that the Courtroom is a public place to settle disputes in a civilized manner. The Court understands this may be an emotionally charged matter. However, the Court will not allow any person to make statements or comments about any other party. Each side is entitled to his or her day in Court. Every litigant will be treated with honor and dignity.

The Court may modify or rescind this Order, in part or whole, at any time.



Douglas G. Bechtel
Magistrate, Fourth Judicial District

This document was updated by the Court, December of 2024