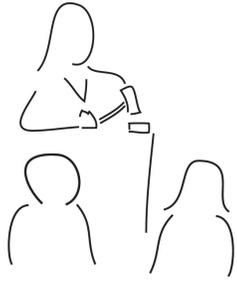


# Your Visitation Hearing

## Get ready for your visitation hearing.



**Arrive early!** You will need time to park, go through security, and find your courtroom. If you are late, the judge will close your case, and you will have to start over from the beginning.

**Dress nicely.** No jeans, tank tops, shorts, flip flops or revealing clothing.

**Take all of your court papers with you.** The judge will ask to see your:

- *Order Enforcing Visitation*
- Proof that the other parent was served (a Certified Mail receipt or a receipt from the process server)

**Look for the judge's clerk's office,** which is usually near your courtroom.

Tell the judge's clerk you are present, and:

- You do not have a lawyer.
- You have a copy of the *Order Enforcing Visitation* with you.
- Ask where you should wait until your case is called.

## Follow court rules:

- Turn your phone off. Remove your hat. No food, no gum, no drinks in the courtroom.
- Stay calm. Be polite. Do not interrupt anyone.
- Do not speak until the judge asks you to speak.
- **Stand up** when your case is called and move to the front of the courtroom.
- If you do not understand something, say, "I don't understand."

## The court will call your case.

The judge will:



- Read your *Request to Enforce Visitation*,
- Ask you to take an oath that you will tell the truth, then
- Ask you to explain your *Request* and what you want the court to do.

## When it's your turn to speak, tell the judge:

- The date of your current Visitation Order, and if any court made changes or stopped visitation for any reason.
- Explain which parts of the Visitation Order were **not** followed and how that affected you and the children.
- Say what you want the court to do now to make up for lost visitation time.

The other parent will have a chance to explain his/her side, and show evidence.

## The judge will decide your case.

The judge will explain his/her Order for your case and have the new Order written down.

To do this, the judge may:

- Write the Order on his/her own form,
- Write it on your *Order Enforcing Visitation*, or
- If the other parent has a lawyer, the judge may ask that lawyer to prepare the Order.

The judge will sign the order. Take it to the Clerk's Office.

## Take your Order to the Clerk's Office, and:

- Ask the Clerk to file-stamp the original signed copy of the Order.
- Make at least 2 copies of the signed Order. The Clerk can make copies for you, for a fee.
- Ask the Clerk to certify them.
- Mail one copy of the file-stamped Order to the other parent.
- Keep at least one copy for your records. Keep it in a safe place where you can find it. Remember: You must follow the court's orders on visitation.

## Questions?



Contact OKLaw.org at: [www.oklaw.org](http://www.oklaw.org),

Call Legal Aid at **1-888-534-5243**, or

Talk to a lawyer. To find a lawyer, go to: [www.oklahomafindalawyer.com](http://www.oklahomafindalawyer.com). The court **cannot** give you legal advice.