



New Orleans Family Justice Center
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Safety Tips When Going to Court

If you are going to court for a final protective order, your abuser may also be coming to court. Here are some ideas on keeping safe in court.

Getting to court:

- Plan on getting to court early, find your court room and be seated. That way, you may get to court before your abuser does. This can make it safer for you to get into the building.
- If you have any witnesses who will testify on your behalf, have them arrive early and be seated in the court room.
- **Do not bring children to court.**

Once you're inside the court room:

- Turn off your cell phone.
- Do not hold conversations in court.
- Let the bailiff or courthouse security know if the abuser sits next to you or tries to harass you. Ask the bailiff to keep your abuser away from you.
- If you do not understand what is being said in court concerning your case, always ask that the information be repeated.

Leaving the courthouse:

- Always wait for a certified copy of any order that the judge issues.
- If you are fearful of your abuser you may have a police officer or sheriff walk out with you or escort you to your car.

Court Advocate
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