

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR HARDEE, HIGHLANDSAND POLK COUNTIES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 1-6.2

ON DRESS AND DECORUM IN COURTROOMS AND CHAMBERS

In recognition of the respect that is due the people's courts when in session and the duty of the judges to require such respect, it is now, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit of the State of Florida under article V, section 2(d), Florida Constitution; section 43.26, Florida Statutes; and Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(2),

ORDERED AND DIRECTED that:

- I. Unless otherwise ordered by separate order, the following dress and decorum shall be adhered to by all spectators, witnesses and litigants appearing or being in court or chambers or so near thereto as to be under the court's authority or jurisdiction:

A. DRESS IN COURTROOMSAND CHAMBERS

1. No tank tops.
2. No bare midriffs or shoulders.
3. No shorts except for children under 12 years of age and inmates transported for court proceedings from a detention facility.
4. No bare feet except children under 12 years of age.
5. No unusually rakish or garish dress that would have the tendency to distract from the proceedings.
6. No hats or caps.

B. DECORUM AND BEHAVIOR IN COURTROOMS AND CHAMBERS

1. While court is in session, everyone is required to remain silent except those who are presently involved in a case before the court.
2. No eating, smoking, or drinking of beverages.
3. No gum chewing.
4. Everyone will rise or remain seated as the bailiff directs.

5. No cellular telephones or audible beepers are allowed to be used while court is in session.

C. DECORUM AND CONDUCT NEAR THE COURTROOMS OR CHAMBERS

1. No loud or boisterous talking, laughing or other noise distractions.
2. No one will be permitted to wear T-shirts or items of clothing having messages printed thereon that would have a tendency to distract from the proceedings.

II. Enforcement and compliance:

- A. All bailiffs of this circuit are required to enforce these rules and regulations unless otherwise directed by the presiding judge.
- B. All attorneys as officers of the court are requested to encourage their clients and witnesses to comply with the spirit and intent of this Order.

III. This order is effective immediately and cancels and supersedes Administrative Order No. 1-6.1, entered on April 27, 1993.

DONE AND ORDERED on this 20th day of January, 2023.

s/ELLEN S. MASTERS, Chief Judge

Original:

Polk County Clerk of Courts

Copies:

All Judges

Hardee County Clerk of Court

Highlands County Clerk of Court

Polk County Clerk of Court

Nick Sudzina, Trial Court Administrator

Office of the State Attorney

Office of the Public Defender

Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, Second District

Department of Juvenile Justice

Hardee, Highlands, and Polk Law Enforcement Agencies

Electronic Bar Mailing