



Court Appearance Preparation Checklist

✓ Documents to Bring

- • Photo ID (Driver's License or State ID)
- • Copies of all current court orders and parenting plans
- • Communication records with the co-parent (text, email, app logs)
- • Visitation journal entries or denial log (bring physical or printed records)
- • Receipts for child support, gifts, or other expenses
- • Proof of residence and employment (lease, pay stubs)
- • Any prior legal filings, police reports, or CPS/DFCS documentation

✓ Dress Code & Demeanor Tips

- • Wear business casual or professional attire (no hats, shorts, or flip-flops)
- • Speak clearly, calmly, and respectfully at all times
- • Stand when addressing the judge
- • Avoid interrupting others—even if you disagree
- • Bring a notepad to take notes during the hearing

✓ Legal Representation Notes

- • Confirm the appearance of your attorney, if applicable
- • Prepare your key points or timeline ahead of time
- • If representing yourself, organize your documents in folders by topic
- • Know your docket number and be ready to state your position clearly

✓ Key Facts / Timeline Summary

- • Write down a short summary of your custody story
- • Note key dates: denials of access, police reports, CPS involvement, etc.
- • Identify any upcoming court dates or deadlines
- • Clarify what you are asking the judge to order (e.g., enforcement, reunification)



✓ Faith & Confidence Affirmations

- "I am a present and loving father."
- "God is with me in this courtroom."
- "I stand in truth, not fear."
- "My children deserve both parents."

✓ What to Expect

- Most custody hearings begin with roll call or check-in.
- You may be asked to testify or answer questions.
- The judge may speak directly to both parties.
- Be patient—hearings often involve waiting.
- A final decision may not be made the same day.