

Self Service Center

PREPARING FOR AND ATTENDING THE COURT HEARING FOR EMANCIPATION OF A MINOR

BEFORE THE COURT HEARING

PREPARE THE “*ORDER FOR EMANCIPATION OF A MINOR*”:

- Write in the name of the Minor asking to be emancipated and the case number *and leave the rest blank*.
- Make and bring the original and 1 copy of the “*Order*” to the hearing.

If you need a court interpreter, call **court administration** at least 10 days before the hearing.

The Court utilizes a digital audio recording system to preserve the official record of proceedings. If a party wants a court reporter to record a proceeding in this Court, a written request must be filed with the Clerk of the Court and a copy provided to Court Administration at least 72 hours before the commencement of the proceeding. There will be a fee for this service.

AT THE HEARING

1. ARRIVE AT LEAST 15 MINUTE BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED HEARING TIME. Check in with receptionist and wait to be called and seated in the courtroom.
2. IF YOU ARE LATE, YOUR HEARING MAY BE RESCHEDULED TO A DIFFERENT DAY.
3. EXPECT TO BE IN THE COURTHOUSE UP TO SEVERAL HOURS; PLAN YOUR CHILD CARE NEEDS ACCORDINGLY. Bringing children to court is not encouraged.
4. TURN YOUR CELL PHONE OFF BEFORE ENTERING THE COURTROOM.
5. DO NOT BRING FOOD OR DRINKS OR CHEWING GUM INTO THE COURTROOM.
6. DRESS APPROPRIATELY.
7. BE PREPARED TO ANSWER THE JUDGE'S QUESTIONS.
8. Be prepared to testify at the court hearing about why you think emancipation is needed. You may also bring witnesses to testify in support of your request as well as any documents that are not already in the court file.

IMPORTANT!

- **AFTER the hearing, YOU must take the original signed Order to the Clerk of the Court BEFORE LEAVING THE BUILDING! IF YOU LEAVE WITHOUT GOING TO THE CLERK, THERE WILL BE NO RECORD OF THE ORDER FOR EMANCIPATION.**
- **DO NOT LEAVE THE COURT BUILDING BEFORE GOING TO THE CLERK WITH YOUR DOCUMENTS.**
- **THE CLERK WILL ISSUE DOCUMENTS FOR YOU TO TAKE WITH YOU.**

Court staff can answer certain limited questions about court procedures. If you still have questions or need legal advice, you will need to consult a lawyer. You can find lawyers in the yellow pages or online telephone directory listings under “attorneys.”