

LAW OFFICE OF
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GOING TO COURT
WHO TO BRING AND WHO TO LEAVE AT HOME

by Melaney G. Hodge, Esq.

Going to court can be an extremely stressful experience, particularly the Probate and Family Court, which deals with highly emotionally charged issues. Often individuals wish to bring family members and/or current significant others to support them at a court proceeding. A word of caution to those individuals!

Given the emotionally charged environment, involving other individuals in the court process can further aggravate the situation. If it is your first time in court and you are nervous, you should bring someone with you for support, but be careful about your selection. Bringing a current romantic interest or a family member known to aggravate the other side will create unnecessary hostility, which may hurt your case in the long term.

If you bring someone with you, be aware that he or she will not be permitted to participate in any court proceeding. When you go into family services, he or she stays outside. When you address the judge, you approach the table on your own.

Having emotional support at a court hearing is important, however, save yourself any additional headaches and bring someone unlikely to upset the opposing party.

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