



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Unified Court System (UCS) is to deliver equal justice under the law and to achieve the just, fair, and timely resolution of all matters that come before our courts.

In the service of our mission, the UCS is committed to operating with integrity and transparency, and to ensuring that all who enter or serve in our courts are treated with respect, dignity, and professionalism. We affirm our responsibility to promote a court system free from any and all forms of bias and discrimination and to promote a judiciary and workforce that reflect the rich diversity of New York State.

COURT USER EXPECTATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

In furtherance of our mission, the UCS has developed this guidance on what court users can expect and their responsibilities when they come to court.

COURT USER EXPECTATIONS

Court users should expect:

- ✓ Fair and impartial treatment regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, national origin (ancestry), military status, disability, predisposing genetic characteristic, familial status (including pregnancy), marital status, socioeconomic status or language barrier;
- ✓ Courtesy, respect, professionalism, and responsiveness from judges and court staff;
- ✓ Free court interpreters, upon request;
- ✓ Clear and understandable information; and
- ✓ Assistance navigating court facilities.

COURT USER RESPONSIBILITIES

Courts users should:

- ✓ Arrive on time;
- ✓ Cooperate with court security when you enter the courthouse;
- ✓ Treat everyone, including judges, court staff, attorneys and other court users, with courtesy and respect;
- ✓ Maintain proper conduct and decorum, as directed by the judge or other court staff;
- ✓ Respect the judge's rules in the courtroom;
- ✓ Notify court staff in advance, when possible, if you need an interpreter or an accommodation for a disability (ADA); and
- ✓ Not use electronic devices while in a courtroom without the permission of the judge.