

## **LOCAL RULES OF OPELIKA MUNICIPAL COURT**

### **Rule 2—Courtroom Decorum.**

In order to maintain order and to uphold decorum, the Court adopts the following rules of conduct and dress for defendants, counsel, witnesses and spectators. These rules are intended to ensure that persons in the Courtroom do not obstruct or interfere with the orderly transaction of Court business and that they do not degrade or insult the dignity of judicial proceedings, judicial officers, witnesses or others in the Courtroom.

#### **2.1—Conduct of All Persons.**

When the Court is called to order, complete order must be observed. Common courtesy and politeness are guides to proper Courtroom conduct. There should be no talking in the Courtroom unless instructed to do so by a Court official. In the Courtroom, there must be:

- (a) no talking or other noise that interferes with Court proceedings
- (b) no use of cellular telephones
- (c) no chewing of gum
- (d) no tobacco use
- (e) no edibles
- (f) no bottles, cups or beverage containers
- (g) no propping of feet on tables or chairs
- (h) no other behavior that is disrespectful of Court proceedings

#### **2.2—Cellular Telephones, Computers/Messaging Devices**

All cellular phones, personal computers, messaging devices and pagers must be turned off while in the Courtroom.

#### **2.3—Dress Code**

Appropriate attire is mandatory for any appearance in Court, whether as a participant in a case, a witness or observer. Men must wear shoes, long pants and a shirt, with or without a jacket. Women must wear shoes, a dress, skirt or long pants, a blouse, sweater or casual dress shirt. Persons will not be allowed to enter the Courtroom wearing the following inappropriate clothing:

- (a) shorts
- (b) hats
- (c) muscle shirts or tanktops
- (d) sleeveless t-shirts or sleeveless shirts
- (e) halter or tube tops
- (f) see-through tops
- (g) flipflops
- (h) clothing that exposes the midriff or underwear

- (i) pants that fall below the waist
- (j) clothing with an emblem or wording that promotes illegal or inappropriate activity
- (k) clothing that depicts or promotes violence, sex acts, illegal drug use, racism, gangs or obscene language
- (l) clothing emblazoned with obscene words, images or messages contemptuous or disrespectful of the judicial process

If a person is dressed in violation of this policy, he or she will not be permitted in the Courtroom or will be required to leave.

This rule shall take effect on October 1, 2014.

ADOPTED this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2014.

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H. KENNETH WILKES,  
PRESIDING MUNICIPAL JUDGE

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BEN HAND,  
MUNICIPAL JUDGE