

## **PLEASE READ BEFORE YOU COME TO COURT**

1. **FOR ALL DIVORCE CASES - The Plaintiff (person filing for divorce) must bring a witness over the age of eighteen (other than the spouse), who has *personal knowledge as to the grounds for divorce*. If the witness did not attend the wedding, the Plaintiff will need to bring a copy of the **marriage certificate**. *If you do not have a witness with you, the Court cannot grant you an absolute divorce.***
2. Arrive early on your court date. If you are not there when your case is called, your case could be removed from the court docket, dismissed or the court could rule without hearing what you have to say.
3. **DO NOT** appear in court wearing shorts, tank tops, bathing attire, shirts with suggestive slogans, overly revealing clothing or other inappropriate attire. Please have your witnesses follow the same rules.
4. Food, drinks and chewing gum are **not** allowed in the Courtroom.
5. **DO NOT bring children (under 18 years of age) to Court on your hearing date.** Have child care arrangements that will accommodate evening hours in case you are in court past 4:30 p.m.
6. If you intend to present documents or other evidence (such as pay stubs or pictures), have them with you, in order; and with extra copies on the hearing date.
7. You and your witnesses will have a chance to tell your side of the story and the other side will be given the same opportunity. You will have a chance to cross-examine by asking questions of other side's witnesses.
8. If you have any questions you may call Angela D. Hans, Family Support Services Coordinator @ (410) 228-1395 for further assistance.