

TIP 2

Before Court: Getting Ready

To help make your day in court as successful as possible, prepare in advance. This includes preparing your case, keeping up with deadlines, and planning for your day in court.

Prepare for Your Day in Court

- Write down all deadlines and important dates in your case. Make sure you meet the deadlines.
- File required paperwork, such as motions, on time.
- Save all paperwork you receive from the court or the other party.
- Ask a lawyer or the clerk's office if you don't understand something.
- If you have children, arrange childcare for your day in court, unless the court requires your child to attend.

Watch the Video



Research the Law

- Research the law relevant to your case.
- Visit peoples-law.org and mdcourts.gov/courthelp for overviews of Maryland law on specific topics.
- Get help from a law librarian at a Maryland law library for more detailed research.
- Make sure you understand the law. You should identify the facts in your situation that prove the law requires the court to rule in your favor. Then, you will present those facts in court.

Organize Evidence

- Prepare and organize the evidence you will bring to court.
- Practice what you will say to the court.
- Identify any witnesses who should also testify in court. Fill out a subpoena form at the clerk's office to require your witness to attend the court date.
- Have three copies of each picture and document you want to present in court. One copy is for you, one copy is for the other party, and one copy is for the judge.

Resources

- Visit mdcourts.gov/ccll for library locations and information.
- For court addresses and other contact information, view the [list of court locations](http://mdcourts.gov/courtsdirectory) at <https://mdcourts.gov/courtsdirectory>.
- You can get free legal assistance at the [Maryland Court Help Center](http://mdcourts.gov/helpcenter) at 410-260-1392, or at mdcourts.gov/helpcenter.
- Read more about preparing for court with the People's Law Library's Prepare for Court articles at <https://peoples-law.org/cat/how-do-i/prepare-court>.



Maryland Court Help

Free. Online. In Person. By Phone.