

Tips for Testifying

- 1) Be Prepared. Try to recall what happened and picture the scene and the objects there. Write down details and feel free to bring your notes to trial, but answer questions in your own words.
- 2) Speak Clearly And Loudly. If you did not hear the question, ask the attorney to repeat it.
- 3) Answer Only The Question Asked Of You. Do not volunteer information and remember to stop immediately if the judge interrupts or an attorney objects to a question.
- 4) Do Not Guess Or Speculate. If you do not know the answer, say so. If you give an estimate of time or distance, be sure everyone knows you are estimating. If you do not understand a question, ask the attorney to explain it to you.
- 5) Tell The Truth. Do not try to figure out if your answer will hurt or help the case. Just answer truthfully, to the best of your memory.
- 6) Be Courteous. Try to remain calm and do not lose your temper. Being polite makes a good impression.
- 7) Dress Well. The way you dress and present yourself is a direct reflection on you. In addition, please be advised that you will not be allowed into the courtroom wearing shorts, flip-flops, halter tops, or with exposed midriff or undergarments.
- 8) Be Prepared To Wait. Occasionally a witness may be requested to remain nearby for a period of time. You may want to prepare for this by bringing a book to read or some handwork to help you pass the time.