

HOW TO GET ALONG IN THE COURTROOM

- It is in your best interest to act in a way that shows your side of the case in the best way possible. What you will be experiencing in the courtroom is not what you have seen on television or in the movies. We suggest that you consider the following guidelines if you are representing yourself:

It is your Responsibility To:

- Notify the court that you are representing yourself.
- Learn all the steps that are involved in getting a divorce.
- Read all the documents carefully.
- Attend all workshops that the court may offer.
- File with the court clerk all the appropriate paperwork within the time allowed.
- Give copies of all papers you have filed to your spouse or his or her attorney.
- Share financial information with your spouse.
- Arrive at court on time ready to proceed.

Your Conduct in the Courtroom Should Be:

- Courteous.
- Fair.
- Respectful.
- Polite.
- You want to make a good personal appearance so your clothing should be neat and clean. The judge or magistrate will make sure that you will have a turn to speak. You do not need to interrupt anyone. When it is your turn, stand up (unless the judge or magistrate has indicated this is not necessary) and then ask and answer questions politely and courteously. Ask the judge if you have a question on how to proceed.

Be Prepared - Make a checklist:

- Have you completed your paperwork?
- Have you filed, or do you have with you, all financial information?
- Court Form 813 (Affidavit of Income and Assets)
- Tax returns with W-2's
- Pay stubs, or if you are self-employed, monthly income and expense ledgers
- Do you have copies for everyone?
- Are your witnesses ready - on time and prepared?
- Do you have a list of questions to ask?

**You can obtain helpful information, as well as court forms at:
www.VermontJudiciary.org.**