



South Dakota Supreme Court

Know Before You Go

Security

Before entering the room/auditorium where Supreme Court oral arguments are to be heard, attendees will be screened using a metal detector. Personal items such as backpacks, bags and briefcases will be inspected by security personnel. Do not bring any unnecessary items to oral arguments. **Cameras and recording devices are not allowed.**

Entering/Exiting the Courtroom

Entering and exiting the courtroom is limited to before the start of an oral argument or when the Court takes a recess. Do not enter or leave the courtroom once an oral argument has begun.

Courtroom Decorum

Movement within the courtroom is restricted. Individuals observing court must remain seated while the Court is in session. Silence should be maintained during the Court session, and attendees should listen attentively.

Entrance/Exit of Justices

When the Justices enter and exit the courtroom, the Clerk of the Supreme Court will say, "All rise." Individuals should stand until the Chief Justice invites the audience to be seated. When the Justices exit the courtroom, the Clerk of the Supreme Court will again say "all rise," and the audience is to stand until all Justices have left the room.

Restrictions

- Cell phones must be turned off before entering the courtroom.
- No food or drinks are allowed in the courtroom.
- Hats and caps should be removed before entering the courtroom.
- Do not chew gum or create any distractions while the Court is in session.
- No photographs or recordings (cellular phones or otherwise) are allowed without explicit permission from the Clerk of the Supreme Court or the Court Public Information Officer.

Speaking With the Court During Q&A

When speaking to the Court, refer to individuals as "Justice" or collectively as the "Court." Addressing the Court using phrases like "you guys" or "you all" is not appropriate.

Specific questions about the cases argued during the session cannot be answered. Justices are bound by a code of conduct and not allowed to answer questions on anything other than procedural matters. If a justice answers a question about a pending case, it may give the impression that the justice has made up his or her mind on certain aspects of the case.

The position of a justice is to serve as a neutral fact finder—not an advocate for one position or another. A justice must not "pre-judge" or offer thoughts or feelings on any case other than through a formal opinion.