

Court Log

Judge: _____

Prosecutor: _____

Defense Attorney: _____

Court Dates/Times: _____

A Victim/Witness Advocate is available to answer your questions.

Office hours are 8:30am-4:30pm

Monday-Friday

Phone: (513) 695-1325



Warren County Prosecutor
David P. Fornshell



Additional resources are available on our website:

www.co.warren.oh.us/prosecutor

**Or you can reach us by phone:
(513) 695-1325**



Witness Preparation



Warren County Prosecutor

David P. Fornshell

SUGGESTIONS FOR WITNESS PREPARATION

- The most important thing is to tell the truth.
- Speak clearly and loudly enough so that the jurors and Judge can hear you.
- Answer only the question that is asked with a direct and simple response. If the question can be answered with a “yes” or “no,” respond in that manner.
- Be courteous in your response. If a defense attorney appears rude and inconsiderate, you should retain your dignity and answer politely. Show the defense attorney the same courtesy that you show the prosecutor. Do not argue or become sarcastic on cross-examination. Maintaining composure and control will strengthen your testimony.
- Be prepared to tell what happened. Simply share the facts as you remember them. Trying to memorize your testimony is not recommended.

- Proper dress and neat appearance are important. Please do not chew gum on the witness stand. The more your appearance draws the attention of the Judge and jury, the less they will listen to your testimony. Remember, you only have a brief time to make an impression with what you say.

Your honest testimony will help the court in its search for the truth.



- Listen carefully to the questions that are asked and give thoughtful, considered answers. Take your time. If the question is confusing, ask to have it repeated. Avoid letting the defense attorney rush you into saying something you do not mean.
- Be serious in your approach. Nervous laughter can be distracting and damaging.

- Be as definite as possible in your answers. You want the jury to know that you have given credible testimony. You do not want to raise doubt in the minds of the jury or the Judge.
- Avoid ending your answer with conclusions such as “that’s all that happened.” Instead, indicate that is all you remember.
- Stop instantly when the Judge interrupts or an attorney objects to a question. Wait for the Judge to advise you on how and when to proceed.
- Give only your opinions or feelings when you are asked for them. The case must be decided on the facts. In some cases, the facts may be related to your feelings. The prosecuting attorney will tell you if that is true in your case.

Witnesses and victims have the right to decline commenting to the opposing counsel and media. Such inquiries may be referred to the investigating agency or Prosecutor’s Office. Please use discretion when making this critical decision.