

What to Expect in the Courtroom

What can you expect when you appear at a court hearing? The Judge will usually request each party to briefly state the issue(s) before the Court. The party initiating the hearing will present their case first—presentation of witnesses, including the party themselves, if they so elect. The other spouse will then present his or her case through the presentation of witnesses, including the party themselves, if they so elect. All evidence must be by witnesses—letters, statements, and other writings are inadmissible unless agreed by both parties. Both parties will be allowed to present a brief closing statement. Before issuing an opinion, the Judge may request of the parties the legal basis for the relief they request and may even require briefs be filed by the parties if the issue is particularly unique.