



LEGALWISE®

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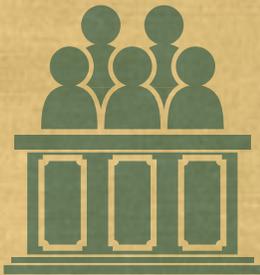
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DID YOU KNOW... Reasonable Doubt Means Are You Really, Really Sure?

Judges often instruct jurors that if finding a defendant guilty, they must do so beyond a reasonable doubt. This means that if the evidence presented shows that no other explanation is reasonable, then guilt has been proven beyond a reasonable doubt, and the defendant must be found guilty. Beyond a reasonable doubt is the highest burden of proof required in any trial.

legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com

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HEADED TO COURT?

MAKE SURE YOU PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD.

If you're headed to court in any capacity, whether as an attorney or simply as someone involved in a legal matter, it's important to follow the generally accepted rules of courtroom decorum. You may not think etiquette can make or break your case, but following simple DOs and DON'Ts for courtroom behavior can certainly strengthen your cause.

DO

- Arrive on time
- Rise when the judge and jury enter the room
- Stand when speaking to the judge
- Be polite to everyone, from the bailiff to the judge and the lawyers
- Remain seated and quiet until your business is before the bench
- Wear clothing appropriate to business settings

DON'T

- Bring cell phones into the courtroom
- Interrupt others while they are talking
- Wear flip-flops or other casual shoes
- Wear shorts or hats
- Stay in the courtroom if you are with a child that becomes disruptive
- Bring food or gum into the courtroom

The judge is the final arbiter on all matters in the courtroom, and as such, he or she may have additional rules posted at the entrance to the courtroom. Bottom line: don't be late, dress appropriately, mind your manners, and you'll be fine.

"Courtroom Etiquette: How to Behave in Court." SouthSource, A Publication of South University. www.SouthUniversity.edu, April, 2013. Source: SouthUniversity.edu/courtroom-etiquette-how-to-behave-in-court-132066.aspx

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS



**TIP
OF THE
MONTH**

AVOIDING COMMON TAX FILING MISTAKES

Tax time can be stressful, and it's easy to make mistakes when filing your returns. When filing by mail, make sure your W2s and other documents are attached to your returns. Proofread for typos and check and double-check your numbers. Are your social security numbers correct for both you and your dependents?

Most mistakes are related to paper returns, so consider filing your taxes online. And while you're online, apps such as Expensify and IRS2GO (both available in Apple's App store) can help make tax time even easier by keeping track of receipts and expenses and even monitoring the status of your return.

Davies, Richard and Andrew Evans. "2015 Tax Tips: Avoid Frequent Mistakes on Tax Returns." www.ABCnews.com. March 5, 2015. ABCnews.go.com/Business/2015-tax-tips-avoid-frequent-mistakes-tax-returns/story?id=29361806

LAW FIRM SPOTLIGHT

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Relax... you're covered.®

Q I just got an email from the post office saying that they attempted to deliver a package, but I'm not expecting anything. It looks legitimate. Should I trust it?

A The United States Postal Service is warning customers of a delivery scam sent via email. Scammers, who are seeking to capitalize on the trustworthiness of the Postal Service name, are targeting customer's personal information through emails with the subject line: "USPS Delivery Failure Notification."

The emails, which include a false notification about an attempted delivery, instruct customers to click on a link that will activate a virus designed to intercept personal information. **The Postal Service only notifies customers of delivery failures through a note on the door or in a mailbox, and they advise recipients to simply delete the email or report it to the USPS at abuse@usps.gov.**

"USPS Delivery Failure Notification Email Scam." Postal News. www.postalemployeenetwork.com. Nd. PostalEmployeeNetwork.com/news/2011/11/usps-delivery-failure-notification-email-scam/z

TRENDING NOW

DRIVING AND HEADSETS UNDERSTAND THE LAW



Whether your choice is earbuds or headphones, you might want to think twice before grabbing your music and getting behind the wheel of your car. It turns out that laws covering headsets and driving are complicated in many states.

According to AAA, wearing headphones is "mostly illegal," in four states and "mostly legal" in 33. That leaves 13 states where the laws are complicated, such as states with exemptions to the law. Your safest bet is to check [this list](#), provided by the AAA, before setting out.

Siu, Jason. "Wearing Headphones While Driving Legal in Most States." www.AutoGuide.com. April 29, 2012. www.AutoGuide.com/auto-news/2012/04/wearing-headphones-while-driving-legal-in-most-states.html

VIRGINIA BEACH LAW GROUP

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Virginia Beach Law Group is a full service law firm serving all of Hampton Roads. The firm takes pride in treating each client with respect and compassion while building strong personal relationships. Founding attorney David Johnson comments that he values Legal Resources Members. "I feel that Legal Resources members make ideal clients." He goes on to add, "We particularly enjoy taking care of our Legal Resources family." In addition to being strong members of the community, the firm actively supports cancer research, the SPCA, wetlands conservation, the Virginia Beach 4H Club, and American Veterans.

Please contact our Member Services Department with any questions. We look forward to serving you and your family.

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