

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADOPTION HEARINGS

Adoption proceedings, even when held in chambers, are official court proceedings. Therefore, it is expected that all attendees comply with the 4th Judicial District Court rules regarding dress and conduct. Although adoption proceedings are closed confidential juvenile proceedings, adoptive parents may, at their discretion, invite family and friends to attend and are responsible for making sure that all attendees are familiar with the Court rules regarding dress and conduct. Even when adoptions are held at a location other than a courtroom, the rules regarding dress and conduct must be followed.

Canon 3(A)9 of the Code of Judicial Conduct governs the use of photographic or electronic recordings in the courtroom and areas immediately adjacent thereto at least during sessions of court or recesses between sessions. With very limited exceptions, taking photographs or making electronic recordings is prohibited. Adoption proceedings are not one of the limited exceptions. Additionally, 4th Judicial District Court rules require that advance permission be obtained from the Chief Judge to take any photographs whatsoever. The judge presiding over the adoption proceeding will be responsible for seeking the approval of the Chief Judge.

In adoption proceedings, the making of any type of electronic recording, including video, is NOT allowed under any circumstances. The taking of photographs is allowed ONLY at the conclusion of the hearing and shall be done with personal cameras only in a manner which maintains order and decorum and promotes the dignity of the Court.