

**TASK FORCE WEBSITE**  
**HTTPS://WWW.OCBAR.ORG/familylawtf**

**25 DO'S & DON'TS FROM YOUR SUPERVISING JUDGE HON. LON HURWITZ**

At the request of the Family Law Bar Section Leadership, I sent out an e-mail to the Family Law Panel requesting their input for suggestions on better Remote Hearings.

After exhaustive research and compilation by a major U.S. Accounting Firm (who shall remain nameless) we proudly present our top 25 Do's and Don'ts for Better Remote Hearings in Family Law matters:

1. DON'T conduct the Hearing in your car-especially while driving;
2. DON'T conduct the Hearing while walking in the park-too many dogs barking and ducks quacking;
3. DON'T go to the bathroom during the Hearing-no explanation needed, we hope;
4. DON'T walk around with your Laptop-it makes the Judicial Officer very dizzy;
5. DON'T light a cigarette and start smoking during the Hearing-we can't see your face;
6. DON'T forget that you are being watched at all times-the camera on your computer is not a mirror;
7. DON'T eat or drink during the Hearing;
8. DON'T forget to dress appropriately and tell your clients to do the same;
9. DON'T forget to wear clothes, and tell your clients to do the same, and them that other household members should do the same if they are going to walk in front of the camera;
10. DON'T show us the proof of your claimed disability by revealing your scar;
11. DON'T sit outside for the Remote Hearing-the neighbor's leaf blower can be a little distracting;
12. DON'T participate in the Remote Hearing while there is a new puppy in the room;
13. DON'T partake of vaping or joint smoking, no matter how stressed you might be.
14. DON'T use 2 connections from the same room
15. DON'T have more than 1 microphone active in the same room;
16. DON'T file things the day before the Hearing-the Court will not be able to review it;
17. DO keep yourself and your client muted until you need to speak;
18. DO test your equipment before the Hearing and have your clients and witnesses do the same;
19. DO be certain that you have provided all exhibits (except for impeachment) to all other counsel/parties, besides filing with the Court;
20. DO speak clearly, slowly and directly into your microphone, and don't turn your head while speaking;
21. DO turn off all other apps except the app being used for the Hearing;
22. DO turn off all cell phones;
23. DO ensure that you, your clients, and your witnesses are in a location that has no background noise;
24. DO follow all of the above Do's and Don'ts 1 thru 23;
25. DO avail yourself of our stellar and unique Voluntary Settlement Conference Program so that you don't have to remember Do's and Don'ts 1 thru 24.

Signed,  
Yours for Better RFO Outcomes thru the magic of technology,  
Lon Hurwitz