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Tips for Going to Trial on Your Own (Small Claims)



INMAN KAMINOW P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Be Respectful of the Court

- Be on time! Do not take this lightly. Be on time!
- Dress appropriately – don't wear tattered jeans or tee-shirts (especially with band logos or other advertisements)
- Don't wear a hat
- Refer to the judge as, "Your Honor"
- Do not use profanity or racially/gender insensitive words

Be Prepared

Get all of your documents needed to prove or defend your case in order. Also, try and anticipate the other side's argument when preparing your documents. **Some** of the things you'll need:

- Contracts
- Change orders
- Receipts and checks
- Photos of work done
- Photos of damages that occurred

Practice Practice Practice!

- Practice in front of someone unfamiliar with your business – this will help make sure your argument is better understood by
- Practice composure
- Practice proper annunciation and pronouncing names

Bonus! Do not Stress...

- Do not stress the outcome
- If you lose (and 50% of the people involved, lose) you can always appeal