

Common Mistakes in Family Court

Avoid these five frequent errors to keep your case on track and maintain your credibility with the judge.

1. Hearsay Evidence

- **The Mistake:** Trying to testify about what someone else (a neighbor, a teacher, a relative) said.
- **The Fix:** If you want the judge to know what someone said, that person usually needs to provide a signed declaration or testify in person.

2. Focusing on 'The Ex' Instead of 'The Kids'

- **The Mistake:** Spending your limited time listing why your ex-spouse is a bad person.
- **The Fix:** Frame everything around the children's needs. Instead of 'He is always late,' say 'The children are distressed when the transition time is inconsistent.'

3. Bringing the Children to Court

- **The Mistake:** Bringing children to the courthouse to 'see the truth' or show the judge they want to be with you.
- **The Fix:** Most judges view this as high-conflict behavior. Keep children out of the legal process unless a Guardian Ad Litem or the Court has specifically requested their presence.

4. Late Service of Evidence

- **The Mistake:** Trying to hand the judge a new piece of evidence on the morning of the hearing that the other party hasn't seen.

- **The Fix:** Follow local rules for 'Service.' If you didn't share it with the other side by the deadline, the judge will likely refuse to look at it.

5. Arguing with the Judge

- **The Mistake:** Continuing to argue after a judge has made a ruling.
- **The Fix:** Even if you disagree, say 'Thank you, Your Honor,' and move to the next point. You can always file an appeal or a motion for reconsideration later, but arguing in the moment only hurts your standing.

Next Step: Use ThreadLock to organize your evidence properly and ensure you meet all service deadlines before your hearing.