

## 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.

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- **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.