

DOCUMENT 21

THE 25 MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO NEVER DO IN COURT

PURPOSE

Many cases are damaged not by the strength of the opposing side, but by avoidable mistakes. This document identifies common errors that undermine credibility, preparation, and effectiveness.

1. Never argue with the judge.
2. Never interrupt the judge.
3. Never interrupt a witness.
4. Never argue during cross examination.
5. Never answer a question you do not understand.
6. Never become emotional in front of the jury.
7. Never assume the jury understands your position.
8. Never assume the prosecutor has proven an element.
9. Never ignore filing deadlines.
10. Never rely solely on memory.
11. Never appear unprepared.
12. Never attack a witness personally.
13. Never lecture the jury.
14. Never treat objections as arguments.
15. Never ignore unfavorable facts.
16. Never forget the burden of proof.
17. Never assume a title equals credibility.
18. Never volunteer unnecessary information.
19. Never abandon the record.
20. Never become distracted by courtroom personalities.
21. Never make promises you cannot support with evidence.
22. Never confuse assumptions with proof.
23. Never stop taking notes during trial.
24. Never panic after an unfavorable ruling.
25. Never forget that preparation beats emotion.

LD APPLICATION

The Liberty Dialogues encourages disciplined participation in the process. Avoiding common mistakes preserves credibility and keeps attention focused on proof rather than distraction.

FINAL PRINCIPLE

Many people lose because they react. The Liberty Dialogues encourages preparation, structure, and restraint.