

WATCH Court Monitoring Form

Please respond to the following items to the best of your ability, circling the appropriate response. Feel free to comment on your observations wherever space permits. If you have comments or questions about your experience today, please contact WATCH at watchvolunteer@watchmn.org. Thank You!

Courtroom information (Please fill out one form per case you observe today.)

County: _____ Location: _____ Judge: _____ Date: _____

Time you spent in courtroom with no judicial business being conducted: _____

Time you spent in courtroom when judicial business was being conducted: _____

Level to which Court Personnel make announcements about the proceedings or otherwise kept public informed throughout the proceedings? 1 (no) 2 3 4 (yes, kept courtroom informed at all times)

Please provide comments below:

Defendant/Respondent and Case Information

Type of hearing: _____

Case #: _____

Defendant's Name: _____

Defense Attorney: _____

Scheduled Start Time: _____ Actual Start Time: _____

Offense(s): _____

Time defendant spent in front of Judge _____

Prosecuting Attorney: _____

What was the defendant's gender? (Please circle) Male Female Transgender/Gender Non-Conforming

What was the defendant's apparent race/ethnicity? (Please circle)

African African-American/Black Asian/Pacific Islander Caucasian Hispanic/Latino

Native American Middle Eastern/Arab Unknown Other (Please describe): _____

What was the defendant's relationship to the victim? (Please Circle) Spouse Romantic Relationship Child in Common

Friend Acquaintance No Prior Relationship Other: _____

Did the defendant speak English? Yes No

If no, please state the language defendant spoke. Was there an interpreter present? Yes No Does not apply

Victim/Petitioner Information

Was the victim present? Yes No Can't Tell

What was the victim's gender? (Please circle) Male Female Transgender/Gender Non-Conforming

What was the victim's apparent race/ethnicity?

African African-American/Black Asian/Pacific Islander Caucasian Hispanic/Latino

Native American Middle Eastern/Arab Unknown Other (Please describe): _____

Are children (minors) involved in the case? Yes No Can't tell

Was there any concern shown toward the victim in the courtroom? Yes No

Was there a statement on behalf of the victim? Yes No

Please describe:

Did there appear to be anyone present on behalf of victim? If yes, please indicate who.

Other Comments:

Courtroom Safety

Was the defendant in custody?	Yes	No	Can't tell
Were victim and defendant left alone together at any time during hearing?	Yes	No	Can't tell
Were No Contact Orders violated at anytime?	Yes	No	Can't tell
Were guns involved in the case?	Yes	No	Can't tell
Was defendant required to surrender gun(s) as a part of the case?	Yes	No	Can't tell
Were specific arrangements made for the surrender of the gun?	Yes	No	Can't tell

Comments on other safety concerns:

Judicial Feedback

Respect and Courtroom Decorum	Poor	Acceptable	Good	Excellent
People in the courtroom were treated with courtesy and respect	1	2	3	4
The courtroom was orderly	1	2	3	4
I felt safe and secure in the courtroom	1	2	3	4
I felt safe in the areas adjacent to the courtroom	1	2	3	4

Comments on respect and courtroom decorum:

Efficiency	Poor	Acceptable	Good	Excellent
The judge appeared prepared for court	1	2	3	4
The judge appeared on time for court	1	2	3	4
Attorneys appeared prepared for court	1	2	3	4
Attorneys appeared on time for court	1	2	3	4
Cases were heard in a timely fashion	1	2	3	4

Comments on efficiency:

Impartiality	Poor	Acceptable	Good	Excellent
The judge displayed a neutral presence on the bench	1	2	3	4
Individuals were treated equally and without bias by all court staff	1	2	3	4
Court staff made an effort to understand the concerns of all individuals.	1	2	3	4

Comments on impartiality:

Accountability	Poor	Acceptable	Good	Excellent
Defendants were held accountable for their actions by the court (Bail set, sentenced at guidelines or above, etc)	1	2	3	4
The interests of victims and the public were adequately represented	1	2	3	4

Comments on accountability:

Communication	Poor	Acceptable	Good	Excellent
Procedures & rulings were easily understood by victim	1	2	3	4
Procedures & rulings were easily understood by defendant	1	2	3	4
If needed, an effective interpreter was provided	1	2	3	4
Judge's communication of No Contact Order was clear and specific	1	2	3	4

Comments on communication:

Judge's communication of Sentence and Conditions of Probation was clear and specific (if applicable). 1 2 3 4

Comments

Add comments and examples to explain the rankings above:

The WATCH Experience

- Did you gain a better understanding of court roles through the WATCH experience? Yes No
- Do you believe that the court process is fair? Yes No
- Did you feel your presence in the courtroom has made the justice system more effective and responsive? Yes No
- Will this experience make you more likely to participate in future civic engagement? Yes No
- Did your trust in the court's ability to effectively administer justice increase or decrease based on what you've observed? Yes No

What were the most interesting things to you about this case you saw today?

Praise? Share any positive feedback you have regarding the courtroom facility and the personnel serving it.

Room for improvement? Share your criticisms you have about this courtroom facility and personnel.

Other Comments (please include case numbers if you are attending Felony Arraignments or Domestic Violence Court):
