

Court-Day Empowerment and Organization Guide

General tools for preparing information, questions, logistics, and support

Empowerment does not mean controlling a court outcome or knowing every rule. Here it means approaching a demanding system with organized information, clear questions, realistic support, and permission to seek qualified help.

Not legal advice: Michelle D. Elder is not acting as a lawyer. Se Puede Urban Farm LLC does not provide representation, case strategy, legal interpretation, deadline calculation, form selection, or outcome predictions. Do not rely on this worksheet instead of current court rules, official instructions, or advice from a licensed lawyer in the applicable jurisdiction.

Start with what is known

Court name or location

Date, time, courtroom, remote link, or check-in instructions

Official source used to verify this information

Separate documents, facts, questions, and feelings

All of these can matter, but mixing them together may make information harder to find. This page is an organizational aid only; it does not determine what is relevant or admissible.

Documents I have

Documents or official records I am trying to locate

Questions for the clerk, facilitator, legal-aid provider, or lawyer

Clarity can be practiced

You do not have to sound fearless to communicate clearly. Short sentences, organized notes, and requests for repetition can support understanding. Courtroom rules control what is permitted.

A brief factual timeline for my own organization

Terms or instructions I need explained by an appropriate source

A reminder about my pace

Make the day easier to navigate

- ☐ Confirm identification and entry requirements with the court.
- ☐ Know whether phones, bags, food, water, or support people are permitted.
- ☐ Bring organized copies only as appropriate and permitted.
- ☐ Allow time for security, check-in, transportation, and accessibility needs.
- ☐ Keep official contact information available.
- ☐ Do not sign a document you do not understand or agree with; ask what it is and seek qualified legal help about its effect.
- ☐ Keep copies of documents you submit or receive when permitted.

My support plan

If I become confused, the appropriate person or official resource I can ask

Capture official next steps without guessing

After court, distinguish what you heard, what appears in a written order or official notice, and what still needs verification. If something is unclear, use an official source or qualified lawyer rather than relying on memory or assumptions.

Orders, deadlines, or next steps to verify

Where I will verify each item

What support do I need next?

Safety and privacy: Store legal documents securely. Do not submit case details, court records, identifying information, or confidential material through the Se Puede website forms. For immediate danger or an emergency, contact local emergency services or an appropriate crisis resource.

Created by Michelle D. Elder for Se Puede Urban Farm LLC's Pro Se Petition Project. General education and lived-experience-informed organization support only.