

# Suggested Preferred Responses



## Self-Represented Litigants

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Hon. Gerald Williams  
North Valley Justice Court  
Charles Adornetto  
Judicial Education Officer  
Maricopa County Justice Courts



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Slide 11:

The best answer is A. B and E are also valid responses. A law enforcement officer likely has experience testifying in court and is not a self-represented litigant because the officer is not a party to the case.

Slide 12:

The judicial officer should ask the defendant if she would like to respond to the seatbelt violation, which is not one of the options presented. D and E are clearly wrong. C probably goes a little too far.

Slide 13:

The best answer is D. Inform B first and then ask A. This reflects the recent rule change.

Slide 14:

The best answer is E. Although it is not in the court rules, the form to amend the petition provided by the Supreme Court does not permit the petitioner to amend to add allegations after the date of the petition.

Slide 15:

The best answer is E. Always provide due process.

Slides 16-17:

The suggested answer is D. E probably goes too far because the judge should not ask the questions that lay the foundation for the admission of an exhibit. C is clearly wrong—the Rules of Evidence are not “relaxed” in eviction actions.

Slides 18-19:

The best answer is D. Some people mistakenly believe that they will receive a higher punishment if they initially enter a plea of not guilty. Others believe that a plea of not guilty is dishonest. A and B are also proper but, while the judge can reduce the fine, the judge cannot reduce the points MVD will assess. C is clearly wrong because MVD will automatically require TSS with a responsible finding on a red light violation.

Slide 20:

The best answer is D. E is clearly wrong. C may also be appropriate.

Slide 21:

The best answer is D. A and C may also be appropriate if it appears plaintiff would not be entitled to a summary judgment had the attachments been admissible. E is clearly wrong.

Slides 22-23:

The best answer is C. While A and B are not improper, why proceed to a trial where you know the plaintiff will be unable to prevail when you can reset the matter in 3 days with the parties prepared? Make the right decision for the right reason.

Slide 24:

The best answer is A. The better response would be to properly explain at the beginning of the trial how it will proceed and advise the parties that they are starting over. As the plaintiff has already discussed the 5 day notice prior to the trial, remind her she can ask that it be admitted into evidence.

Slides 25-26:

The best answer is E. The rules of evidence allow the prosecution to offer a statement made by a criminal defendant, but if the defense wants to offer a statement from the defendant, the defendant will need to testify.

Slides 27-28

The best answer is C. It is important for the judge to keep the hearing limited to the scope of the hearing (e.g. paragraph 4 of the petition).

Slides 29-30:

The best answer is A or C. If you alter a stipulated judgment, it is no longer a stipulated judgment.

Slides 31-32:

The best answer is D. Note that the hearsay is admissible in small claims because the Rules of Evidence do not apply.

Slides 33-34:

The best answer is C. Another option is to advise the parties of the elements plaintiff must establish to prove her case and ask her to address each of the elements.

Slides 35-36:

From the options presented, B is the best answer. A, D and E are clearly wrong.

Slides 37-38:

The best answer is D. A tenant should understand what has happened in their case, why it happened, and what can happen next.

Slide 39:

The best answer is E. Only superior court can declare litigants vexatious. Simply enter an order that the other party need not respond to any filing unless the court orders it.