



Decorum Rules

Joint Committee Meetings | Updated: April 29, 2024

Chair to preserve order and decorum

JR7-1-302

- (1) The chair shall preserve order and decorum during a legislative committee meeting by:
 - (a) ensuring nothing obstructs a walkway or the view of a meeting attendee;
 - (b) ensuring that nothing disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly course of the meeting;
 - (c) protecting state property from damage or disarray;
 - (d) prohibiting speech likely to incite or produce imminent lawless action, fighting words, or obscenity; and
 - (e) prohibiting any activity or item that poses a danger to the safety of a meeting attendee.
- (2) To preserve order and decorum in accordance with Subsection (1), the chair may:
 - (a) prohibit the following:
 - (i) standing, waving, yelling, cheering, whistling, or clapping;
 - (ii) loud noises;
 - (iii) food or drink, other than water in a closed container;
 - (iv) musical instruments;
 - (v) any item that may require excessive cleanup; or
 - (vi) to the extent necessary to preserve order and decorum, any other item or activity the chair determines necessary;
 - (b) clear the meeting room of one or more individuals;
 - (c) recess the meeting without a motion; or
 - (d) request assistance from:
 - (i) the sergeant-at-arms; or
 - (ii) the Utah Highway Patrol.
- (3) A member of the public participating in a legislative committee meeting via video conference may not:
 - (a) use a virtual background other than one that is simple and free from distracting visuals; or
 - (b) engage in any behavior that if performed in the meeting room would violate Subsection (1).

Prohibited items and activities

JR7-1-104

- (1) A member of the public attending a meeting of a legislative committee may not:
 - (a) bring into the meeting room, or possess while in the meeting room, any of the following:
 - (i) a sign, poster, banner, or placard;
 - (ii) glitter or confetti;
 - (iii) a laser pointer;
 - (iv) paint;
 - (v) an open flame;
 - (vi) an incendiary device;
 - (vii) a noise maker;
 - (viii) flammable liquid; or
 - (ix) any harmful or hazardous substance; or
 - (b) engage in any of the following while in the meeting room:
 - (i) commercial solicitation;
 - (ii) leafletting;
 - (iii) throwing an item; or
 - (iv) adhering any item to a furnishing, a wall, or other state property.
- (2) To the extent reasonably applicable, any action by a chair under this rule applies to a member of the public participating in the meeting via video conference.