



Rules and Protocols for Visitors to the National Assembly of Belize

The National Assembly of Belize welcomes members of the public to observe parliamentary proceedings, promoting transparency, civic education and democratic participation.

Attendance at meetings of the National Assembly is a privilege granted to visitors and is subject to security procedures, established rules and the authority of the Presiding Officers. Visitors are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the dignity of Parliament.

These guidelines are intended to maintain order, safety and respect while safeguarding the effective functioning and authority of the country's highest legislative institution.

By following these rules, visitors help uphold democratic values, protect parliamentary property and ensure that all citizens can observe the work of Parliament in a fair, respectful and orderly environment.

1. Access and Security

- All visitors must enter through the designated public entrance at the National Assembly.
- Visitors are subject to security screening, including bag inspections.
- A valid form of identification may be requested.
- Visitors must comply with all instructions given by security officers and parliamentary staff.
- Weapons are strictly prohibited, including firearms, guns, knives and other weapons.

2. Dress Code

Visitors should dress in a manner appropriate to the formal and constitutional nature of the National Assembly:

Acceptable attire includes:

- Business or smart-casual clothing
- Dresses, skirts, slacks, collared shirts, and closed shoes

Not permitted:

- Shorts, mini-skirts, tank tops, sleeveless shirts
- Flip-flops, beachwear, or athletic wear
- Clothing displaying offensive language, images, or political slogans
- Head coverings, unless worn for religious or medical reasons

3. Conduct in the Public Gallery

While proceedings are in session, visitors should:

- Remain seated and silent at all times
- Refrain from clapping, cheering, booing, or making verbal comments
- Avoid any form of demonstration or protest within the precincts of parliament
- Not attempt to communicate with Members of the House or the Senate
- Not eat, drink, or chew gum
- Ensure mobile phones are switched off or on silent or vibration mode.
- Children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times.

4. Electronic Devices and Recording

- The use of cameras, video recorders, or audio recording devices in the Chamber or Public Gallery is strictly prohibited, unless prior authorization is granted by the Presiding Officer.
 - Photography and recording within the Assembly Building may be restricted in certain areas.
 - Live streaming or social media broadcasting from the Public Gallery is not permitted.
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5. Authority of the Presiding Officer

- The Presiding Officers (Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate) have full authority over proceedings and the conduct of visitors in the Public Gallery.
 - Any visitor who disrupts proceedings or violates these rules may be ordered to leave the Chamber immediately.
 - Serious or repeated violations may result in temporary or permanent suspension of visitor privileges.
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6. Group Visits and Educational Tours

- School visits, group tours, and official delegations are encouraged and must be arranged in advance through the Office of the Clerk.
 - Visitors must follow all instructions provided by parliamentary staff.
 - Access to certain areas may be restricted for security or operational reasons.
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7. Accessibility

- The National Assembly of Belize is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.
 - Visitors requiring special assistance are encouraged to notify the Assembly in advance.
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8. Health, Safety, and Emergencies

- Visitors must comply with all health, safety, and emergency procedures.
 - In the event of an emergency, visitors must follow the directions of security officers and parliamentary staff.
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Final Note

Attendance in the Public Gallery is a privilege. All visitors are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that respects the Constitution of Belize, the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, and the democratic process.

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