

Script for Plaintiff's Testimony

Child Support Decrease

Before you present your case, you will be sworn in. If the Judge indicates you should come forward, you should take a seat in the witness chair. The witness chair is usually beside the Judge. If the Judge allows you to stay at the table in front of the Judge, you should stand.

In accordance with the SC Rules of Civil Procedure, if you have any papers that you want the Judge to see, bring three copies to the hearing. Hand the original and a copy to the Deputy Sheriff who will give the original to the Judge and a copy to the Defendant. Be sure to keep another copy for yourself in case the Judge or the Defendant asks you questions about it.

After you are sworn in, you should ask

- "Your Honor, may I begin?"
- My name is _____
- My address is: _____
in _____ County, _____ (State)
- The Defendant lives in _____ County, _____ (State)
- This court has jurisdiction over this case because of the prior child support order.
- I am responsible for child support for: (name of child/children in this case) _____
- I am under a court order to pay _____ (amount of child support) per _____ (week, month, every two weeks, twice a month).
- My income per month is: _____. I make _____ per hour and I work _____ hours each week.
- I have other income from _____. That income is _____ per month.
- I pay health insurance of _____ per _____ for the child(ren).
- I have filed a Financial Declaration with the Court that I ask the Court to review.
- My circumstances have substantially changed. I need to decrease the child support because _____

- Your Honor, that is all of my testimony. I will be happy to answer any questions that you or the Defendant may have.

Listen carefully to any questions that you are asked and answer truthfully.