

Student Tours of County Courthouses in Iowa

Many of the county courthouses in Iowa are old, beautiful and rich in history and tradition. Students would learn a great deal about the courthouse and the local court system by visiting and touring the county courthouse. In most counties a court or clerk's office staff member – or other government employee located in the courthouse – can help arrange a courthouse tour for a school class. **(The ability to schedule a courthouse tour will depend on the availability of staff and other scheduled events at the courthouse.)** In most counties students will learn about the:

- History of the courthouse
- Duties of the clerk of district court
- Duties of court administration staff and case schedulers
- Duties of court reporters
- Jury duty and how juries work
- Duties of the various types of judges (magistrates, district associate judges, associate juvenile judges, and district judges)
- Duties of other government offices located in the courthouse

If your class has enough time during the tour, and if a judge is available, a judge might be able to meet with your class during or after the courthouse tour. If you want the judge to talk about a specific topic, you should let the district court clerk know this in advance. **(Note: A judge might not be available on the date or at the time that you tour the courthouse.)**

How to arrange a tour of your county's courthouse

You should call the **clerk of district court** in your county – located in your county courthouse. Depending on the county, clerk's office staff will help make the necessary arrangements for the tour, or the clerk will refer you to the government office in the courthouse that arranges tours.

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