

Courtroom Forms of Address and Introductions

These tables have been constructed from the [Courts of New Zealand's Guidelines for Courtroom Conduct for Counsel July 2026](#) [5] to [8] and the Appendix. The Appendix is expressly described as a guide rather than a prescriptive set of formulas, recognising that counsel may choose between English, te reo Māori, and New Zealand Sign Language where appropriate. Please refer to the original guidelines.

Forms of address

ADDRESSING A JUDGE

English	Te Reo Māori
Your Honour	E te Kaiwhakawā/Tiati
Your Honours / the Court	E ngā Kaiwhakawā/Tiati
The Court	E te Kooti/Kōti
Coroner	E te Kaitirotiro Matewhawhati
Associate Coroner	E te Kaitirotiro Matewhawhati Tuarua
Family Court Associate	E te Kaiwhakawā Tuarua o te Kōti Whānau
Your Worship (Community Magistrate)	E te Kaiwhakawā ā Hapori
Your Worship (Justice of the Peace)	E te Mana Whakaaio

Note:

“Sir” and “Ma’am” are still commonly used but these forms of address are intended to be phased out.

REFERRING TO A JUDGE IN THE THIRD PERSON

English	Te Reo Māori
Justice [surname]	Kaiwhakawā [surname]
Judge [surname]	Kaiwhakawā [surname]
Coroner [surname]	Kaitirotiro Matewhawhati [surname]
Associate Coroner [surname]	Kaitirotiro Matewhawhati Tuarua [surname]
Family Court Associate [surname]	Kaiwhakawā Tuarua o te Kōti Whānau [surname]

MEETING A JUDGE OUTSIDE COURT

English	Te Reo Māori
Judge	E te Kaiwhakawā/Tiati
Coroner	E te Kaitirotiro Matewhawhati

Introductions in Court

ONE JUDGE, ONE COUNSEL, ONE CLIENT

Te Reo Māori	English
Tēnā koe e te Kaiwhakawā/Tiati.	Greetings, Judge.
Ko [name] tōku ingoa.	My name is [name].
E tū ana ahau mō te [Karauna/kaitono/kaikaro/kaipira/kaiurupare] i tēnei wā.	I appear for the Crown/applicant/plaintiff/defendant/appellant/respondent.

THREE OR MORE JUDGES, TWO COUNSEL, MORE THAN ONE CLIENT

Te Reo Māori	English
Tēnā koutou e ngā Kaiwhakawā/Tiati.	Greetings, Judges.
Ko [name], ko [name] ō māua ingoa.	Our names are [name] and [name].
E tū atu nei mō ngā [kaitono/kaikaro/kaipira/kaiurupare].	We appear for the applicants/defendants/appellants/respondents.
Kei konei māua mō ngā or Kei konei māua mō ngā [kaitono/kaikaro/kaipira/kaiurupare].	We are here for the applicants/defendants/appellants/respondents.

Party names

Te Reo Māori	English
Karauna	Crown
Kaitono	applicant/plaintiff
Kaikaro	defendant
Kaipira	appellant
Kaiurupare	respondent

Addressing opposing or other counsel

Te Reo Māori	English
Te rōia mō te [Karauna/kaitono/kaikaro/kaipira/kaiurupare]	counsel for the [party]
Te rōia mātāmua mō te [party]	senior counsel for the [party]
Te rōia pōtiki mō te [party]	junior counsel for the [party]
Ko tōku hoa rōia	my learned friend

Concluding the hearing

Te Reo Māori (exact wording)	English
Nōu te mana e te Kaiwhakawā/Kōti	as your Honour pleases / as the Court pleases
Tēnā koe e te Kaiwhakawā	Thank you, your Honour
Tēnā kōrua e ngā Kaiwhakawā	Thank you, your Honours (two judges)
Tēnā koutou e ngā Kaiwhakawā	Thank you, your Honours (three or more judges)