

POLICY RE: USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

IN THE FOLLOWING COURTS:

**Youth Justice Court
Wellness Court**

INSIDE COURTROOMS

Without permission of the Court, no person shall use an electronic device, such as a phone, tablet, computer, camera, or audio recorder, in a courtroom:

- to carry on a conversation while court is in session
- to take photographs or record or produce an image
- to transmit an audio or video recording
- that interferes with the proceedings or the courtroom recording system by producing any noise, vibration or electronic signal.

PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED

Members of the public must turn off and put away all their electronic devices before entering the courtroom.

Members of the media:

- may not transmit information about court proceedings from inside a courtroom while court is in session, for publication and by any means (including social media platforms, texting, email, etc.) without the permission of the presiding Judge
- may not answer or make a phone call while court is in session
- may not take pictures or recording video (but may record audio)
- may not transmit pictures, video, or audio
- may not use an electronic device – or have one on – that disrupts what is going on in the courtroom or interferes with the courtroom recording system in any way.

ALLOWED

- **Only members of the media:**
 - may keep a cell phone on in vibrating mode only (but not talk on it)
 - may receive any content
 - may input and transmit general text only, if it does not interfere with proceedings or the courtroom recording system

- may use electronic devices to record the audio (only) of the proceedings to augment their note-taking but not for broadcasting

EXCEPTION

When official ceremonies such as a swearing-in or robing ceremony, events such as Law Day, mock trials, or civil weddings are held in the courthouse, the prohibitions and restrictions do not apply with regard to those specific events.

INSIDE THE COURTHOUSE, OUTSIDE COURTROOMS

Without permission of the Court, no one (except members of the media) shall use an electronic device, such as a phone, tablet, computer, camera, or audio recorder, inside the courthouse to produce, record, or transmit audio, video, or still photographs.

PROHIBITED (by everyone – see exceptions)

- taking pictures
- recording video or audio
- transmitting pictures, video, or audio
- transmitting text information about court proceedings for publication and by any means (including social media platforms, texting, email, etc.) without the permission of the presiding Judge

ALLOWED (by everyone)

- speaking on a cell phone
- receiving any content
- inputting and transmitting general text only (not text information about court proceedings) on an electronic device

EXCEPTIONS

- **Members of the media (only)** may use audio recorders, still/video cameras, and other devices to produce, record, or transmit audio, video, or still photographs (subject to any publication bans) inside the courthouse (not in courtrooms) but only within designated areas where these areas exist.
- When official ceremonies such as a swearing-in or robing ceremony, events such as Law Day, mock trials, or civil weddings are held in the courthouse, the prohibitions above do not apply with regard to those specific events. However, electronic devices may still only be used within designated areas where these areas exist.

BODY-WORN CAMERAS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Law enforcement officers often attend court to participate in trials and other court proceedings, and to complete other duties related to their daily police work. In those instances, the officers are required to turn off any body-worn cameras before entering the courthouse or court facility.

Body-worn cameras must remain off while the officers are inside the courthouse, unless a security threat or other urgent situation develops that requires the officer to respond and record the interaction.

Officers responding to a dispatched call inside a courthouse or officers arresting an individual inside a courthouse are permitted to have their body-worn cameras turned on when they enter the building to record their interactions with the public, as per their Employer's policies.

Without permission of the Court, officers are not permitted to use body-worn cameras to record inside the courtroom.

PLEASE NOTE: Disagreements regarding the definitions of “members of the media” or “law enforcement officers” shall be resolved by the presiding Judge.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

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