

POLICY RE: USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

In the YOUTH COURT and the MENTAL HEALTH COURT

INSIDE COURTROOMS:

Without permission of the court, no person shall use an electronic device, such as a cell phone, computer or personal data assistant, in a courtroom:

- to carry on a conversation while Court is in session
- to take photographs or record or produce a digital 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 of 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 Twitter, 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
 - 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 or 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

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EXCEPTION:

When official ceremonies such as a swearing-in, or 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 person shall use a device such as a video/still camera, cell phone, or audio recorder inside the courthouse to produce, record or transmit audio, video or still photographs.

PROHIBITED (by members of the public):

- taking pictures
- recording video or audio
- transmitting pictures, video or audio

ALLOWED (by everyone):

- speaking on a cell phone
- inputting text only on an electronic device
- receiving text only on an electronic device
- transmitting text only on an electronic device

EXCEPTIONS:

- **Members of the media** may use audio recorders, still/video cameras, and other devices to produce, record or transmit audio, video or still photographs inside the courthouse, but not in courtrooms, and only within designated media areas where these areas exist.
- When official ceremonies such as a swearing-in, or 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.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

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