

PROHIBITION OF RECORDING OF COURT PROCEEDINGS;  
REGULATING POSSESSION AND USE OF  
ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE COURTHOUSE

The purposes of this General Order are to promote security for all persons who enter federal courthouses (meaning the portions of federal buildings occupied by the District Court and any other facility in which a District Court judicial proceeding is held); to protect the integrity of judicial proceedings; to shield witnesses, law enforcement officers, and other court participants and staff from harassment, intimidation and other impermissible conduct; to facilitate legitimate use of electronic devices for communication or for the storage, retrieval, or presentation of information; and to comply with the mandates of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and the policies of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

**1. Prohibition of photography and audio/video recording.**

- (a) Photographing and video and audio recording are prohibited in the courtrooms and in the common areas of the courthouse (i.e., the corridors and other areas outside the courtrooms). In addition, photographing or recording any court proceeding from a location outside the courthouse in conjunction with remote audio or video access is prohibited.
- (b) A judge is authorized to make an exception to the prohibitions established in (a) and permit photography or recording during court events, ceremonial occasions, and other gatherings.
- (c) Further exceptions to these prohibitions may be authorized only by express written permission of the Chief Judge.

**2. Use of electronic devices.**

- (a) **Definition.** The phrase “electronic device” embraces all equipment that can be used for:
  - (1) Wireless communication; or
  - (2) Receiving, creating, capturing, storing, retrieving, sending, or broadcasting any signals or any text, sound, or images; or
  - (3) Accessing the internet or any other network or off-site system or equipment for communicating or for storing or retrieving information.
- (b) **Permissible uses.** Electronic devices may be brought into the courthouse, may connect to the internet, and may be used in a non-disruptive manner for purposes other than photography and video and audio recording. Any judge may restrict, in a standing order or in a specific case or proceeding, the use of electronic devices, up to and including prohibiting all use of electronic devices in the courtroom.
- (c) **Jurors.** Jurors may not use electronic devices in courtrooms during judicial proceedings or in jury rooms during, or in connection with, deliberations.

Grand jurors may not use electronic devices during, or in connection with, any proceedings before, or deliberations by, the grand jury.

**3. Screening of electronic devices.**

- (a) Court security personnel will screen all electronic devices before permitting them to be brought into the courthouse to make sure that the items do not contain weapons, dangerous devices or materials, or contraband.
- (b) Court security personnel may bar from the courthouse, or from portions of a building in which judicial proceedings are held, any item that appears to pose a threat to security or safety.
- (c) In response to a violation of any provision of this General Order, or of any court order addressing matters covered by this General Order, court security personnel may order immediate compliance, direct the offender to leave the courtroom or the building, temporarily confiscate the device(s) used in violation of these rules, and/or report the violation to the presiding judge, the Chief Judge, the Clerk of Court and/or the United States Attorney.

ADOPTED: October 20, 2005  
AMENDED: September 15, 2015  
AMENDED: March 18, 2024

FOR THE COURT:



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Richard Seeborg  
United States District Chief Judge