

STATE OF MICHIGAN 6 <sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OAKLAND COUNTY PROBATE COURT	ORDER REGARDING SECURITY POLICIES FOR COURT FACILITIES	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER CIRCUIT 2012- 06J PROBATE 2012-06J
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This administrative order is issued in accordance with Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 2001-1. The purpose of this order is to address the presence of weapons and other security issues in court facilities.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. No weapons are allowed in the Oakland County Courthouse, Friend of the Court building, or any court satellite offices. This prohibition does not apply to Oakland County Sheriff's Deputies in the performance of their official duties, or to law enforcement officers appearing for court in the performance of their official duties only. Officers appearing at the Oakland County Courthouse, Friend of the Court building, or any court satellite offices on any personal matter may not carry a weapon or wear their uniform in these facilities. The Chief Judge may authorize an exception in extraordinary circumstances.

2. Except as provided in paragraph #1 above, all persons and their belongings and all parcels are subject to screening by the Oakland County Sheriff's Deputies for the purposes of keeping weapons from entering the facility.

If at any time there is an articulable and reasonable suspicion that a weapon may be found, a person or object is subject to search. The search shall be no more intrusive than necessary to protect against the dangers presented.

3. Notice shall be posted that "No weapons are permitted in the Oakland County Courthouse, Friend of the Court building, or any court satellite offices. All persons and parcels are subject to a search for weapons and restricted items as a condition of entry. Persons in violation of this order may be held in contempt of court."
4. Given the proliferation of film, digital and electronic recording media and equipment, and the potential for unauthorized recording of court proceedings, all persons shall be prohibited from entering court facilities with devices that have electronic or other recording capabilities.

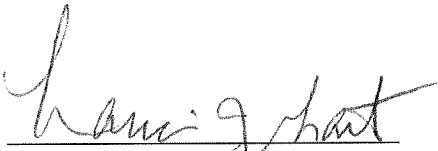
EXCEPTION:

- A. Attorneys (those admitted to the State Bar and admitted *pro hoc vice* for specific cases) and qualified Department of Health and Human Services employees may bring cell phones, laptop computers equipped with electronic recording devices, and PDAs equipped with photographic, video and/or audio recording capabilities into the Courthouse and other Circuit Court facilities. All such devices may be used for communication only in public areas. All such devices must be turned off in the courtrooms and hearing rooms and may not be used for recording purposes.
- B. Jurors may enter the Courthouse with laptop computers, equipped with such features as web cameras or other electronic recording devices, on the initial date of their scheduled


jury service. Security personnel may ask jurors to present a summons for confirmation of their jury service. Laptop computers may only be used in the Jury Assembly Room. Seated jurors may not bring laptop computers into the Courthouse during their terms of service.

- C. Certified and qualified language and sign language interpreters, who are on the Circuit and/or Probate Courts' lists of approved interpreters, may enter the courthouse, Friend of the Court building, and other courts' satellite facilities with laptop computers, iPads, and/or cell phones that have electronic or other recording capabilities, so long as their appearance is required in the official performance of their duties. These devices may not be used for unauthorized recording purposes.
  - D. Other individuals who wish to enter the Courthouse with a film or electronic recording device may request an exception to this policy from the judge presiding over the applicable court proceeding. All other exceptions shall be presented to the chief judge for approval. Devices with electronic or other recording capabilities may only be used for the purpose(s) authorized by the presiding judge or chief judge in accordance with this exception. Requests for film or electronic media coverage of a court proceeding shall be governed by Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 1989-1.
  - E. Any unauthorized use of devices with electronic or other recording capabilities that is contrary to this Local Administrative Order may subject the offending party to sanctions as deemed appropriate by the Court.
5. Joint Administrative Order 2010-03J (Circuit) and 2010-03J (Probate) is rescinded.

This Administrative Order is effective December 1, 2012.

  
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Nanci Grant  
Chief Circuit Judge

11-27-12  
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Date

  
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Linda S. Hallmark  
Chief Probate Judge

11-27-12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Notes

The Circuit and Probate Courts' original joint local administrative order (Circuit 2001-02J / Probate 2001-01J) regarding security policies for court facilities was adopted in April 2003. The LAO prohibited weapons in court facilities except those assigned to Oakland County Sheriff's deputies and law enforcement officers appearing for court in the performance of their official duties only.

In October 2003 the Circuit and Probate Courts adopted a joint local administrative order prohibiting persons from entering court facilities with cameras and camera-enabled electronic devices. The SCAO stated that a ban on electronic recording devices is a security issue and should, therefore, be addressed within our joint local administrative order on security.

In November 2003 the Circuit and Probate Courts amended its joint local administrative order regarding security policies to include a ban on cameras and camera-enabled electronic recording devices. The LAO was approved by the Supreme Court and assigned numbers 2003-09J (Circuit) and 2003-03J (Probate).

In January 2005 the Oakland County Bar Association requested an exception that would allow its members to bring camera-enabled cell phones into the Courthouse. The request was denied in February 2005.

The exception for attorneys to bring camera-enabled cell phones into the Courthouse was approved in April 2006. (Sec. 4.A.)

The exception for jurors and attorneys to bring laptop computers into the Courthouse was approved in January 2010. (Sec. 4. A. and B.)

The exception for attorneys to bring camera-enabled cell phones and laptop computers into the Courthouse was clarified to mean attorneys admitted to the State Bar of Michigan and attorneys admitted pro hoc vice for specific cases. This clarification was approved in November 2011. (Sec. 4. A.)

The exception for certified and qualified language and sign language interpreters to bring laptop computers, iPads, and/or cell phones that have electronic or other recording capabilities into court facilities was approved in November 2012. (Sec. 4. C.)

The provision stating that unauthorized use of electronic recording devices contrary to this local administrative order may subject the offending party to sanctions was approved in November 2012. (Sec. 4. E.)