

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
6<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
OAKLAND COUNTY PROBATE COURT

**POLICY REGARDING ADMISSION OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER TECHNOLOGY INTO THE COURTHOUSE**

**\*\*\*To be posted in a conspicuous location within the courthouse\*\*\***

This policy is issued in accordance with MCR 8.115(C) and shall be effective on October 8, 2018. Prior to this date, Local Administrative Order 2014-07J (Circuit) 2014-02J (Probate) controlled the admission of cell phones and other technology into the courthouse.

IT IS ORDERED:

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.

EXCEPTIONS:

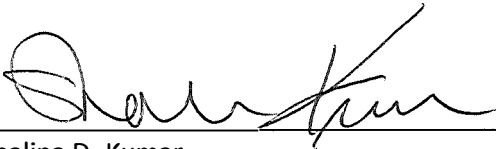
- A. Attorneys with a current Bar card from the state in which they are admitted to the practice of law and qualified Department of Health and Human Services employees may bring cell phones, laptop computers equipped with electronic recording devices, tablet-style mobile computing devices, and PDAs equipped 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 and tablet-style mobile computing devices, equipped with such features as web cameras or other electronic recording capabilities, 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 and tablet-style mobile computing devices may only be used in the Jury Assembly Room. Seated jurors may not bring laptop computers and tablet-style mobile computing devices into the Courthouse during their terms of service unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge of the case.
- 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, tablet-style mobile computing devices, 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. Individuals may enter the Friend of the Court building with cell phones (including those that are camera and/or recording-enabled), but they may not be used in the Friend of the Court building without the permission of the judge or referee presiding over the applicable court proceeding.
- E. The media or other persons who wish to enter the Courthouse, Friend of the Court building, or court satellite facilities with film or electronic recording devices may request an exception to this policy in accordance with the following chart.

Proceeding/Event	Approval by:
Court proceeding.	Judge assigned to the case. These requests shall be handled in accordance with Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 1989-1.
Court related event (other than a court proceeding) with an associated judge(s).	Judge(s) associated with the event.
Court related event (other than a court proceeding) with no associated judge.	Applicable chief judge.
Event related to an elected official(s) other than the circuit and probate courts.	Applicable elected official(s).
Other	Chief circuit or chief probate judge.

Devices with electronic or other recording capabilities may only be used for the purpose(s) authorized by the assigned judge, chief judge, or elected official in accordance with this exception.

- F. 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.



Shalina D. Kumar  
Chief Circuit Judge

10/3/18

Date



Kathleen A. Ryan  
Chief Probate Judge

10/9/18

Date