

STATE OF MICHIGAN



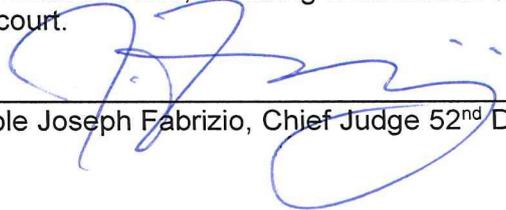
52nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

**Policy Regarding the Use of Portable Electronic Devices**

Effective May 1, 2020, pursuant to MCR 8.115, this policy governs the use of portable electronic devices in the 52<sup>nd</sup> District Courts. Portable electronic devices include any mobile device capable of electronically storing, accessing, or transmitting information. This encompasses portable computers of all description, smart phones and cell phones, tablets, notebooks, cameras and other audio or video recording devices of any kind, a personal digital assistant (PDA), or other devices that provide internet access, and any similar items.

1. Electronic communications devices must be turned off or set to silent mode prior to entering a courtroom. This includes attorneys.
2. No one, including attorneys, may make or take a phone call on an electronic portable device in a courtroom unless that use is specifically allowed by the judge presiding over that courtroom.
3. No one may use a portable electronic device to take photographs or for audio or video recording, broadcasting, or live streaming unless that use is specifically allowed by the judge presiding over that courtroom through a written Order. *Requests for film or electronic media coverage of court proceedings shall follow the procedure provided by Administrative Order 1989-1.*
4. In areas of the courthouse outside the courtroom, no one may photograph, record, broadcast, or live stream an individual without their express prior consent.
5. No one may photograph, record, broadcast, or live stream any juror or anyone called to the court for jury service anywhere in the courthouse.
6. Jurors must turn off their portable electronic devices while present in a courtroom. Jurors may be required to surrender their electronic devices during deliberations. Use of portable electronic devices during deliberations is prohibited.
7. No one may use a portable electronic device to communicate in any way with any courtroom participant including, but not limited to, a party, police officer, attorney, witness, or juror at any time during any court proceeding.
8. Court managers (judge, court administrator) and law enforcement personnel may limit or terminate permission to use a portable electronic device if an individual engages in activities that are disruptive or distracting to court operations or compromise court security, or that is otherwise contrary to the administration of justice.
9. Failure to comply with this policy may result in a fine, including confiscation of the device, incarceration, or both for contempt of court.

Dated: 5/1/2020

  
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Honorable Joseph Fabrizio, Chief Judge 52<sup>nd</sup> District Court