



Order Restricting use of Electronic Devices in the Courtroom and Within the State Court Facility

It is hereby **Ordered** that:

Unless authorized in writing by the Chief Judge/Assignment Judge, all persons are prohibited from using electronic devices to transmit/livestream, broadcast, or record sound, video, and/or photographs while in the courtroom and within any state court facility; and

1. Unless authorized in writing by the Chief Judge/Assignment Judge, all electronic devices must either be powered off or maintained in silent mode prior to entering any courtroom; and
2. Use of cell phones to conduct phone calls, stream videos, or for other activities that disrupt or interfere with court proceedings is prohibited. However, attorneys, parties, and members of the public may use a cell phone in a courtroom to retrieve or to store information (including notetaking), and to send and receive text and email messages or information, subject to the authority of a judge to terminate activity that is disruptive to a court proceeding, or that otherwise interferes with or is contrary to the administration of justice; and
3. In exceptional circumstances that involve security concerns, the court may further restrict access to and/or use of electronic devices with the approval of the Chief Judge/Assignment Judge. That may include requiring that cell phones and other devices are kept out of sight while court is in session, or that devices are powered off; and
4. A person who uses an electronic device while in the courtroom or within any state court facility to transmit/livestream, broadcast, or record sound, video, and/or photographs without court approval and in willful violation of this policy may result in removal from the premises and sanctions, including but not limited to Criminal Contempt under N.J.S.A. 2C:29-9, which, upon conviction, carries penalties of up to six months in jail and a fine not to exceed \$1,000. Further, any electronic device used in willful violation of this order may be confiscated; and
5. This Order will be posted at or near the entrance of all state court facilities, courtrooms, and other appropriate areas.