

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WARREN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

WARREN COUNTY ADMINSTRATIVE ORDER 2022-1

POLICY ON PORTABLE ELECTRONICE DEVICES

The Illinois Supreme Court (Court) has adopted a Policy (Policy) on Portable Electronic Devices (PEDs).

Said Policy defines PEDs to include personal computers, tablet computers, mobile phones, electronic calendars, e-book readers, smartwatches, and similar devices:

The Court has recognized that many courthouses have policies banning PEDs except for limited exceptions for lawyers, jurors, and government employees who have a legitimate need for the use of PEDs. The court has determined that the privilege of use of such devices should be extended to others who may have a legitimate need for the use of such devices, including self-represented litigants, and court visitors.

The Policy is an effort to recognize and respect the interest and legitimate needs of those who enter a courtroom, while recognizing the duty to maintain order and insure safety.

The Policy requires that each circuit court administrative unit adopt an order consistent with the Order and that said local order be posted at courthouses, including at its entrance, at the Circuit Clerk's Office and at each courtroom entrance.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- Any person may bring PEDs into the Warren County Courthouse in accord with this order;
- PEDs may be possessed and used in common areas, including lobbies and hallways, provided that such use:
 - Does not disrupt others or interfere with public access to Courthouse Offices open for public access;
 - Does not pose a threat to the safety and security of others.

PEDS may not, at any time, be used to photograph or record litigants or witnesses. No such device shall be used to harass or intimidate any person, or to communicate with another the substance or content of the testimony of any witness.

- All Portable Electronic Devices must be turned off or placed in "silent" mode at all times within Court Facilities, except during periods of approved use.

- No person may use a PED in a courtroom, except that a Judge may allow lawyers, parties, self-represented persons, witnesses, and the press to use a PED to check calendars, present case-related information or for some other specific approved purpose.
- Attorneys are cautioned to advise their clients, witnesses and support staff about the provisions of this Order.
- No person may take photographs or audio or video recordings in any Courtroom, except as authorized by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 44.
- Court visitors are prohibited from taking photographs, video images, or making audio recordings of prospective jurors or jurors at any time. No court visitor may use a Portable Electronic Device to communicate or attempt to communicate with a potential juror or juror at any time.
- No camera, video camera, video recording equipment or recording devices are allowed to be possessed or used in the courthouse, unless permitted by a Judge for ceremonial events such as marriages, investitures, graduations from problem solving courts or as authorized by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 44.
- Violators of this policy are subject to:
 - Immediate removal from the courthouse;
 - Having contempt of court or other legal proceedings filed against them;
 - Confiscation of any device, the possession of use of which, in the courthouse, is prohibited by this order.
- This Order is effective February 1, 2022.

Date: February 1, 2022

Enter James R. Standa
Administrative Judge
Warren County, Illinois