

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 21-KC-3

KNOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE
PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

KNOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE RECOMMENDS USING THE FREE STORAGE AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE DURING YOUR TIME IN THE COURTHOUSE. IF YOU NEED TO BRING YOUR PHONE INTO THE COURTHOUSE THEN THE FOLLOWING RULES ARE TO BE OBSERVED.

- (1) **Use in Common Areas**: All court visitors may use Portable Electronic Devices in the common areas of the courthouse, such as lobbies and hallways. No telephone conversations are permitted in the common areas. All Portable Electronic Devices must be placed in “silent” mode at all times within the courthouse.
- (2) **Uses in Courtrooms**: Case participants including lawyers, parties (including self-represented litigants), and witnesses may use a Portable Electronic Device inside a courtroom to check calendars or present case-related information. All other use of Portable Electronic Devices inside courtrooms are prohibited unless allowed by permission of the presiding judge. All Portable Electronic Devices must remain in “silent” mode at all times in courtrooms.
- (3) **Prohibited Uses in Common Areas and Courtrooms**: The taking of photographs, audio and video recordings are generally prohibited without prior approval of a judge or as governed by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 44. No court visitor may use a Portable Electronic Device to communicate or attempt to communicate with any potential juror or juror at any time. No court visitor may use a Portable Electronic Device to harass, intimidate, or communicate about given testimony with any witness at any time.
- (4) **Other Electronic Devices**: Cameras, video cameras, video recording equipment and recording devices not classified as Portable Electronic Devices are not allowed in the

courthouse, unless permitted by the Chief Judge of the Circuit, and on such conditions as ordered, for ceremonial events such as marriages, investitures, and graduations in problem solving courts or outlined in the Policy for Extended Media coverage in the Circuit Court of Illinois and Illinois supreme Court rule 44.

- (5) **Confiscation of Equipment and Ejection**: Court visitors using a Portable Electronic Device, or possession other electronic devices, in violation of this or any other court order or policy may be removed from the courthouse, found in contempt of court, or subject to penalties as provided by law. Any Portable Electronic Device used in violation of an order may be confiscated and held until the possessor leaves the courthouse. Court personnel shall not be responsible or liable for any damage to or loss of a confiscated Portable Electronic Device.
- (6) **Restrictions on Portable Electronic Devices**: If a Chief Judge of the Circuit determines that Portable Electronic Devices interfere with the administration of justice or cause a threat to safety or security, they may prohibit Portable Electronic Devices from being carried into specific courtrooms (for example, courtrooms hearing certain criminal cases) or an entire courthouse if the courthouse provides storage for the devices at no cost to the court visitor at the security entrance.

This order is effective May 2, 2022

Date: 4/22/22



Administrative Judge
Knox County, Illinois