

Use of Portable Electronic Devices in the Courthouse

WHAT IS A PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE? Referred to as a “device” in this document, a portable electronic device is a mobile device capable of electronically storing, accessing, or transmitting information; including, but not limited to, a transportable computer of any size (like a tablet, notebook, or laptop), a cell phone, a camera, any audio or video recording devices and/or a device that provides internet access.

SILENCE YOUR DEVICE Always silence your device in or near a courtroom.

USING A DEVICE You may carry and use devices throughout either courthouse. But the following uses of a device are prohibited:

- Any use that a judge or magistrate determines to be disruptive or distracting to a court proceeding;
- Photography, audio and/or video recording, broadcasting or livestreaming inside of the courtroom unless expressly permitted by the presiding judge or magistrate;
- Photography, audio and/or video recording, broadcasting or livestreaming outside of the courtroom without prior consent of the individual(s);
- Photography, audio and/or video recording, broadcasting or livestreaming of any individual called to the court for jury service or as a witness;
- Use of a device by a juror while present in the courtroom;
- Use of a device by a witness while present in the courtroom or in violation of a sequestration order, unless expressly permitted by the presiding judge;
- Use of a device to communicate in any way with any courtroom participant;

- Reproduction of Court records that leaves a mark and/or impression on the document or otherwise unreasonably interferes with the operation of the clerk's office; and
- Any use that compromises courthouse security.

A violation of this rule is punishable by appropriate sanctions; including confiscation of the electronic device, contempt of court, or any sanction deemed under Michigan Law or Court Rule.

MEDIA COVERAGE Film or electronic media coverage of court proceedings must comply with Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 1989-1, as amended (*See* SCAO Form MC 27). Media representatives will conduct themselves so as not to disrupt or distract the court or the proceedings.

For more information about this topic, please see Michigan Court Rule 8.115.