

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2022-1 - Amended**

**POLICY ON PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Champaign County Administrative Order 2022-1 as previously issued is hereby rescinded and replaced with the following:

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court has recognized that Portable Electronic Devices may be critical for scheduling, communicating, and presenting evidence, while also recognizing that inappropriate use of Portable Electronic Devices in courthouses can be a danger, cause distractions, and impact the orderly administration of justice;

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court has adopted a Policy on Portable Electronic Devices, where said Policy accepts the need to maintain security, safety, and order in Illinois courts while balancing the need for access; and

WHEREAS, said Policy requires each courthouse in Illinois to adopt a local Order consistent with said Policy and that said local Order be posted at each courthouse, including at its entrances, in the clerk's offices, and outside each courtroom.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

Definitions.

“Portable Electronic Devices” (PEDs) are mobile devices capable of electronically storing, accessing, or transmitting information and is defined to include personal computers, tablet computers, mobile telephones (including cell phones and any form of telephone with cameras and audio and video recording and transmission capabilities), electronic calendars, e-book readers, smartwatches, or similar devices.

“Court visitor” means any individual present at the Champaign County Courthouse.

1. **Use in Common Areas:** All court visitors may use PEDs in the common areas of the courthouse, such as lobbies and hallways, as long as such use a) does not disrupt others, b) does not interfere with operations of Courthouse business, and c) does not threaten the safety and security of others. Headphones must be used to listen to music. Further restrictions, including restricting mobile telephone conversations to designated areas, may be imposed as needed to maintain safety, security, proper behavior, order, and the administration of justice. All Portable Electronic Devices must be turned off or placed in “silent” mode at all times within the courthouse.

2. **Use in Courtrooms:** No person may use a PED in a courtroom. The ONLY exception is that the Judge presiding in the courtroom 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 purpose. All PEDs must be turned off or 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 or Sixth Circuit Administrative Order 2013-5 (Extended Media Coverage) or, unless otherwise prohibited, with the express and informed consent of all individuals being photographed or recorded. No court visitor may use a PED to communicate or attempt to communicate with any potential juror or juror at any time. No court visitor may use a PED 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 except as permitted by a Judge for ceremonial events such as marriages, investitures, and graduations in problem solving courts, or as authorized by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 44 or Sixth Circuit Administrative Order 2013-5 (Extended Media Coverage).

5. **Confiscation of Equipment and Ejection:** Court visitors using a PED, or possessing 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, including criminal prosecution. Any PED used in violation of this or any other court order or policy may be confiscated and held until the possessor leaves the courthouse, or held as may otherwise be lawful. Court personnel shall not be responsible or liable for any damage to or loss of a confiscated item.

6. **Restrictions on Portable Electronic Devices:** If the Chief Judge of the Circuit determines that PEDs interfere with the administration of justice or cause a threat to safety or security, they may by further order prohibit PEDs from being carried into specific courtrooms (for example, courtrooms hearing certain criminal cases) or the entire courthouse as long as storage for devices is provided for consistent with the Illinois Supreme Court Policy on Portable Electronic Devices.

7. Attorneys should advise their clients, witnesses and support staff about this Order.

8. This Amended Order is effective April 25, 2022.

Date: 4-25-22

ENTER:   
Presiding Judge Randall B Rosenbaum