

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA



**IN RE: AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING EQUIPMENT AND
WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

On August 1, 2005, the Court issued a Standing Order relating to the use of wireless communication devices in the federal courthouses of the Southern District of West Virginia to enhance security, avoid the disruption of proceedings, prevent the illicit broadcast or taping of proceedings, and to protect the participants in court proceedings. These policy concerns still apply with full force, but considering the changing nature of technology, the Court finds that it is necessary to update the 2005 Standing Order.

Audio or video recording or the taking of photographs with any device while in a courthouse in this District is prohibited. Only attorneys, court reporters, and court interpreters conducting official business at a federal courthouse in this District are permitted limited use of wireless communications devices such as mobile telephones and laptop computers. Wireless communications devices and laptop computers may be used to assist attorneys in their cases but must: (1) be programmed not to emit any audible noise while in the courtroom; (2) only be used in a manner that does not disrupt a proceeding; and (3) may not in any fashion be used to broadcast or record audio or video while in the courthouse. Wireless communications devices are not permitted in a grand jury room while the grand jury is in session unless utilized by an agent or representative of the United States Attorney's Office for evidence

presentation. Federal or state certified bona fide law enforcement officers who are empowered with general arrest authority and who are acting in their official capacity are permitted to use wireless communications devices and laptop computers while in the courthouses, subject to the same limitations above that apply to attorneys. Each presiding judicial officer may modify this rule as circumstances warrant.

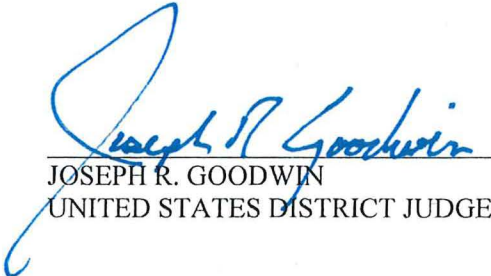
Any other individual other than a federal employee who brings a wireless communication device — including mobile telephones, laptop computers, and any device capable of recording or broadcasting audio, still photographs and/or video — into a courthouse in this District will be required by the court security officers to deposit such devices in storage facilities as provided at the front entry of the building, to be retrieved upon leaving the courthouse.


The United States Marshal, in consultation with the Chief Judge, may grant limited exemptions to this rule as circumstances warrant in connection with regularly scheduled ceremonial events.


This policy will be published on the Court's external website and made available in notices provided to jurors. The United States Marshal, his deputies, and the Court Security Officers shall enforce this Order.

SO ORDERED this 10th day of August 2022.



THOMAS E. JOHNSTON, CHIEF JUDGE

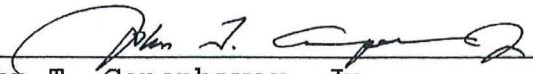

JOSEPH R. GOODWIN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE



ROBERT C. CHAMBERS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE


IRENE C. BERGER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA




Frank W. Volk
United States District Judge


John T. Copenhaver, Jr.
Senior United States District Judge


David A. Faber
Senior United States District Judge