

The Use and Possession of Electronic Devices in Superior Court Facilities

The following guidelines are subject in all cases to a judge or other judicial authority issuing additional specific orders or guidelines for the use of electronic devices in his or her courtroom or hearing:

A person **may have** any of the following electronic devices:

- A cell phone
- A camera phone
- A personal computer with or without video or audio recording capabilities
- A digital or tape audio recorder
- A personal digital assistant (PDA) with or without video or audio recording capabilities
- Any other electronic device that can broadcast, record, or take photographs

A person **may use** a cell phone:

- **to make phone calls, send and receive e-mails and/or send and receive text messages only, but not in a courtroom, lockup, chambers, or offices**

A person is **prohibited from using** a cell phone, or any other electronic device to:

- take pictures
- take videos
- make sound recordings
- broadcast sound
- broadcast still or moving images (video)

Exceptions with the permission of the judge or other judicial authority;

- A person may use a personal computer for note-taking in a courtroom.
- A person who is a participant in a hearing or trial may use a personal computer or other electronic device in a courtroom.
- Other electronic devices may be used in a courtroom if permitted by the judge or other judicial authority or permitted by court rules.

Miscellaneous:

A person may use an electronic device to make an audio or video recording or to take photographs of a public meeting that is subject to the Freedom of Information Act and which is taking place in a superior court facility subject to the following:

- The recording or photographing is done as inconspicuously as possible.
- The recording or photographing is done in a safe, non-disruptive manner.

- The group holding a public meeting subject to the Freedom of Information Act may decide before the meeting reasonable rules controlling the recording or photographing of the meeting based on the need for
 - order,
 - safety, and
 - decorum

of the public agency and those attending the meeting.

- Persons using equipment for recording or photographing a public meeting may use the equipment only for those purposes and shall not use it for any other purposes except as permitted by these guidelines.

The judicial marshals shall make sure that equipment is only used as allowed by these guidelines and any rule adopted by a group holding a meeting that is subject to the Freedom of Information Act. The equipment or the film or other media used in making a recording or photograph may be confiscated if the equipment is used in a way that violates these guidelines or if it is used in a way that violates the rules set by the group holding the meeting subject to the Freedom of Information Act, as long as there is notice of those rules before the meeting.

The right to use an electronic device to make an audio or video recording or to take photographs of a public meeting that is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act and which is taking place in a superior court facility will be decided by the group holding the meeting and the judicial marshals shall make sure that equipment is only used as allowed by the group.

Any person employed in a state's attorney's office or a public defender's office that is located in a court facility may use a cellular telephone or other electronic device in such office and may authorize another person to use a cellular telephone or other electronic device in such office. These guidelines do not apply to employees of the Judicial Branch who must comply with Judicial Branch policies concerning the possession and use of electronic devices in court facilities. These guidelines do not restrict in any way the possession or use of electronic devices in court facilities by judges of the superior court, judge trial referees, state referees, family support magistrates or family support referees or the authority of such judicial authorities to permit others to use electronic devices in chambers.

Hon. Barbara M. Quinn
Chief Court Administrator

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in accordance with Practice Book § 1-10.

Electronic Devices in the Supreme and Appellate Courts