

COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

POLICY FOR CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

(Maryland Rule 16-110)

Effective January 1, 2011

- This policy applies to **everyone**, including attorneys (public defenders, state's attorneys and private attorneys) jurors, and law enforcement officers, **without exception**.
- Subject to security screening, a person may possess a cell phone or electronic device in a courtroom only if the phone or device is secured on a belt clip, in a pocket, briefcase, or pocketbook. The cell phone or electronic device **may not be removed from the belt clip, pocket, briefcase, or pocketbook while in the courtroom, without permission of the court**. Unless granted specific permission by the court, if the person wishes to use or otherwise look at his/her cell phone or electronic device for any reason, the person must do so outside the courtroom.
- Cell phones and electronic devices in the courtroom **must be turned off**.
- The wearing of Bluetooth earpieces and/or other similar devices and accessories is prohibited in the courtroom **at all times**.
- The taking of photographs by cell phone or otherwise is prohibited in the **Courthouse** at all times, unless granted specific permission by the court.

- In the event that the Administrative Judge or presiding judge determines that circumstances of a particular case raise special security or privacy concerns, use of cell phones and electronic devices may be restricted in certain areas of the courthouse, as specified in a separate court order. Such restriction shall remain in full force and effect until lifted by a subsequent court order.

- A violation of this policy will result in the confiscation of the cell phone or electronic device and may result in the ejection of the violator from the courtroom or further sanction by the court. **If a cell phone or electronic device is confiscated, it will be returned to the individual upon the completion of his/her business with the court.**

- No liability shall accrue to the security personnel or any other court official or employee for any loss or misplacement of or damage to a confiscated device.

- Jurors will not be permitted to take cell phones or other electronic devices into the jury deliberation room. If a juror is unable to return their cell phone or device to their private vehicle, court personnel will collect and hold such items until the juror departs for the day. Court personnel will not be liable for any loss, damage or misplacement of the property.

- With the exception of cell phones and devices belonging to jurors and confiscated devices, security and court personnel will not accept or hold cell phones or any other property while a person attends Court. Any property left unattended shall be deemed abandoned property.

- Any cell phone or other property which has been confiscated or abandoned and which has not been claimed within thirty days

Warren J. Krug
County Administrative Judge
Date: December 14, 2010

Definitions: An electronic device means (A) a cell phone, a computer, and any other device that is capable of transmitting, receiving, or recording messages, images, sounds, data, or other information by electronic means or that, in appearance, purports to be a cell phone, computer, or such other device; and (B) a camera, regardless of whether it operates electronically, mechanically, or otherwise and regardless of whether images are recorded by using digital technology, film, light-sensitive plates, or other means.