

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOWARD COUNTY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2018-02

ORDER AMENDING ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2012-02

CELL PHONES; OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES; CAMERAS

Pursuant to MD Rules of Procedure 16-208, it is this 1ST day of May, 2018, by the undersigned Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court for Howard County, Maryland,

ORDERED, that cell phones and other electronic devices are subject to inspection by Court security personnel. A person may bring an electronic device into the Courthouse and use the electronic device for any lawful purpose but is subject to the **Restrictions and Prohibitions** set forth below.

ORDERED, that **within the Courthouse:**

- An electronic device may not be used to record testimony.
- Except as permitted by the Administrative Judge, a **person may not take, record or transmit a photograph, video, or other visual image in the Courthouse.**
- Use of any electronic equipment as a camera is expressly **prohibited** in all areas of the Courthouse with the exception that the head of an agency department may allow photographic equipment within the confines of his/her offices only. In addition, exceptions to this order may be granted for adoption proceedings, marriage ceremonies, high school mock trial competitions. Additionally, specific events may be approved in writing in advance by the Administrative Judge.
- If a particular case has special security or privacy issues, the Administrative Judge or the Presiding Judge/Magistrate may enter an order limiting or prohibiting the possession of electronic devices in a Courtroom or other designated areas of the Courthouse.

ORDERED, that while **in the Courtroom:**

- **All electronic devices shall remain off** unless permission is given by the Presiding Judge/Magistrate.
- **With permission of the Presiding Judge/Magistrate**, Attorneys and/or parties in a proceeding currently being heard, may make use of an electronic device **at trial table only** for purposes related to said proceeding. All speakers on electronic devices must be silenced.

ORDERED, that **in the Jury Deliberation Room:**

- Electronic devices may **not** be brought into a jury deliberation room while the jury is deliberating.

ENTERED

MAY 01 2018

CLERK, CIRCUIT COURT

ORDERED, Violation of the above may result in:

- Security personnel or other Court personnel confiscating and retaining an electronic device used in violation of this Order.
- A finding of contempt of Court and sanctions in accordance with the Rules in Title 15, Chapter 200. Sanctions may include seizure of device.
- Unless otherwise ordered, any confiscated device may be retrieved from the Office of the Sheriff between 4:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

No liability shall accrue to the security personnel or any other Court personnel or employee for any loss or misplacement of or damage to the device.

All subject to further Order of the Court.


Lenore R. Gelfman
Administrative Judge