



## Calvert, Charles, & St. Mary's Counties - District 4 Cell Phone Policy

- **Any individual who willfully violates Maryland Rule 16-208 and/or the limitations imposed by this policy may be found in contempt of court and may be subject to sanctions in accordance with the Maryland Rules, Title 15, Chapter 200.**
- This policy applies to **everyone**, including attorneys (public defenders, state's attorneys, and private), and law enforcement officers, **without exception**.
- A person may possess a cell phone in a courtroom only if the phone is on a belt clip, in a pocket, briefcase, or pocketbook. The cell phone **may not be removed from the belt clip, pocket, briefcase, or pocketbook while in the courtroom**. If the person wishes to use or otherwise look at his/her cell phone for any reason, the person must do so outside the courtroom.
- Cell phones 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.
- A violation of this policy will result in the confiscation of the cell phone and may result in the ejection from the courtroom of the violator. **If a cell phone is confiscated, it will be returned to the individual upon the completion of his/her business with the court.**
- The bailiff will not accept or hold anyone's cell phone or other property while that person attends court. Any property left unattended shall be deemed abandoned property.
- Any cell phone which has been confiscated or abandoned and which has not been claimed within thirty days shall be donated to the sheriff's office for use in the domestic violence program.

Hon. Karen Christy Holt Chesser, Administrative Judge