

Notice Regarding Use of Portable Electronic Devices

The Local Rules of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit now allow persons in the courthouse to use cellphones and other portable electronic devices, subject to specified restrictions. The definition of “Portable Electronic Devices” and further details can be found in Local Rule 1.17. Generally, however, the following requirements apply:

- ▶ Cellphones must be placed in silent mode at all times
- ▶ Speakerphone and similar functions are not allowed
- ▶ When in a courtroom, a cellphone may be used only to check calendars or present case-related information
- ▶ Cellphones may not be used to take photographs, make audio and/or video recordings, or livestream any occurrence or event
- ▶ Cellphones may not be used to communicate or attempt to communicate with a juror or potential juror
- ▶ Cellphones may not be used to harass, intimidate, or communicate with a witness about the witness’s testimony

If a person violates Rule 1.17, court personnel may confiscate and hold the person’s Portable Electronic Device until the person leaves the courthouse. Violation of Rule 1.17 also subjects the violator to removal from the courthouse, contempt of court, and penalties provided by law.

Court personnel are not responsible or liable for any damage to or loss of a confiscated Portable Electronic Device.