

WWDGR 16. Use of Electronic Devices and Cameras in Courthouse

- a) The increasing use of various electronic devices including, but not limited to, cell phones with cameras, smart phones with cameras, tablets with cameras, other wireless communication devices with cameras and any other equipment which can be used to take photographs or to record video (collectively “Devices”) continually challenges the court’s legitimate concerns for courthouse security, participant distraction, avoidance of disruption of the court’s business and decorum.

- b) Devices are permitted within the Walla Walla District courthouse, but such Devices cannot be used to photograph, record or broadcast from anywhere within the Walla Walla District courthouse without prior approval from the Walla Walla District Court presiding judge. Use of any Device to photograph, record or broadcast from anywhere within the Walla Walla District courthouse without prior court approval may subject the user to confiscation of the item misused, a citation for contempt of court or an order imposing monetary sanctions as provided by applicable statutes and court rules. In addition, anyone who violates this rule and continues to photograph, record or broadcast after being told not to do so will be subject to arrest for criminal trespass.

- c) All Devices must be turned off in the courtroom except as is specifically provided in GR 16. During court proceedings, all electronic devices must be put away and out of sight, unless use of the Devices is authorized by the presiding judge under GR 16 or this rule. Any individual may use a Device within the Walla Walla District courthouse, except inside the courtroom, to make or receive phone calls, e-mails, and/or text messages only, so long as such use does not disrupt the court’s business or proceedings.

Effective September 1, 2019