

COURTROOM ETIQUETTE

Policy Governing the Use of Electronic Communication Devices [MCR 8.115(C)] Contempt Warning:

Electronic communication devices include cellular telephones, computers, and any other electronic device capable of making communications.

Recorded Images (including photographs), includes those recorded images captured by any device, whether or not it is an electronic communication device, and include still and moving recorded images.

1. Electronic communication devices must be turned off prior to entering a courtroom.
2. No electronic communication devices may be used in any courtroom, unless authorization is given by the Judge, Magistrate, Referee, or other Hearing Officer presiding in that courtroom.
3. Jurors are not permitted to use electronic communication devices while in attendance at trial or during deliberation. [MCR 2.511(H)(2)(c)]
4. No recorded images, including photographs, may be taken of any jurors or witnesses. [MCR 8.115(C)]
5. No recorded images, including photographs, may be taken inside any courtroom without permission of the court. [MCR 8.115(C)]
6. Failure to comply with this policy may result in a fine, including confiscation of the device, incarceration, or both for contempt of court. [MCR 8.115(C)]

Prohibited in the Courtrooms:

1. Weapons of any type.
2. Inappropriate attire, which includes:
 - Clothing containing or depicting swear words, vulgarities, violence, sexual acts, or promoting drug and/or alcohol use;
 - Muscle Shirts;
 - Tank Tops;
 - Halter Tops;
 - Shorts;
 - Cut-Off Jeans;
 - Pants That Fall Below The Hips;
 - Micro-Mini Skirts; and
 - Hats (Except Those Worn For Religious Purposes).
3. Food, beverages, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.

4. Newspapers.
5. Noise - **Silence is Mandatory.**

Disruptions to courtroom proceedings such as conversations, laughing, shouting, ringing cell phones, and devices producing audible sounds such as music cannot be tolerated (unless in furtherance of health, safety, or accommodation needs).

Be particularly mindful that the courtroom may not be an appropriate setting for children, particularly young children, and they must comply with the same rules as adults regarding silence.

Disruptions affect the ability of the judge, magistrate, referee, hearing officer, the jury, and/or the parties to clearly and accurately perceive what is being communicated in court. It also interferes with the accurate and clear production of the electronic or stenographic record.

Court officers may remove individuals causing a disruption from the courtroom or from the courthouse, and these individuals may be held in contempt of court.

Addressing the Court:

1. Address the court either from a counsel table or from a podium. These areas are equipped with microphones that are used to help create the official record of the matter being heard in court. This ensures that an accurate and clear electronic or stenographic record is produced.
2. Address the judge as "Your Honor" or "Judge." Address the Magistrate as "Magistrate." Address the Referee as "Referee." Address any other hearing officer as "Your Honor" or in the manner indicated by the other hearing officer.
3. Stand when addressing the court, if able. Please advise the judge, magistrate, referee, or other Hearing Officer if you are unable to reasonably or comfortably stand.
4. Only one person at a time may speak when addressing the court during a court proceeding. This will assure that the judge, jury, and parties to the proceeding will understand your statements and that an accurate and clear electronic or stenographic record is produced.
5. Speak clearly and loudly when addressing the court. This will assure that the judge, jury, and parties to the proceeding will understand your statements and that an accurate and clear electronic or stenographic record is produced.
6. Maintain a respectful attitude at all times.