

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2022-M-10  
Madison and Bond Counties

**POLICY ON PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Madison County Administrative Order 2009-C-4 is hereby rescinded and replaced with the following:

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Supreme Court has adopted a Policy on Portable Electronic Devices ("Policy");

**WHEREAS**, said Policy defines Portable Electronic Devices to include personal computers, tablet computers, mobile phones, electronic calendars, e-book readers, smartwatches and similar devices;

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Supreme Court recognized that many courthouses have current policies banning Portable Electronic Devices except for lawyers, jurors and other employees who need them and that this privilege should be extended to others including self-represented litigants and court visitors;

**WHEREAS**, the Policy respects the interest and needs of people who enter the courtroom while recognizing and serving the need to maintain order and safety.

**WHEREAS**, the Policy requires courthouses to adopt a local Order consistent with the Supreme Court Order and that said local Order be posted at courthouses, including at its entrance, at the Circuit Clerk's Office and at each courtroom entrance.

**WHEREFORE**, effective immediately, the following Policy is in effect in the Third Judicial Circuit:

**Portable Electronic Device Policy.**

**(1) Use in Designated Common Areas:** All court visitors may use Portable Electronic Devices in common areas of the courthouse such as lobbies and hallways, subject to the restrictions contained in paragraph (3). However, conversations on mobile devices are restricted to areas of the courthouse designated by signage, such as lobbies and hallways that are not immediately adjacent to courtrooms. Restricting mobile telephone conversations to designated areas is needed to maintain safety, security, proper behavior, order, and the administration of justice. No telephone conversation may be used on speakerphone, court visitors must speak at an appropriate volume, and no music or other sounds may be played in the courthouse so as to minimize disruption of others. All Portable Electronic Devices must be placed in "silent" mode at all times within the courthouse.

**(2) Use in Courtrooms:** Case participants including lawyers, parties (including self-represented litigants), and witnesses may use a Portable Electronic Device inside a courtroom to check calendars or present case-related information. All other uses of Portable Electronic Devices inside courtrooms are prohibited absent further order by the presiding judge. All Portable Electronic Devices must remain in “silent” mode at all times in courtrooms.

**(3) Prohibited Uses in Common Areas and Courtrooms:** The taking of photographs, audio and video recordings are prohibited absent further order by a judge or as governed by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 44. No court visitor may use a Portable Electronic Device to communicate or attempt to communicate with any juror or potential juror at any time. No court visitor may use a Portable Electronic Device to harass, intimidate, or communicate about given testimony with any witness at any time.

**(4) Other Electronic Devices:** Cameras, video cameras, video recording equipment and recording devices not classified as Portable Electronic Devices are not allowed in the courthouse, unless permitted by the Chief Judge of the Circuit, and on such conditions as ordered, for ceremonial events such as marriages, investitures, and graduations in problem solving courts or as outlined in the Policy for Extended Media Coverage in the Circuit Courts of Illinois and Illinois Supreme Court Rule 44.

**(5) Confiscation of Equipment and Ejection:** Court visitors using a Portable Electronic Device, or possessing other electronic devices, in violation of this or any other court order or policy may be removed from the courthouse, found in contempt of court, or subject to penalties as provided by law. Any Portable Electronic Device used in violation of an order may be confiscated and held until the possessor leaves the courthouse. Court personnel shall not be responsible or liable for any damage to or loss of a confiscated Portable Electronic Device.

**(6) Restrictions on Portable Electronic Devices:** If the Chief Judge of the Circuit determines that Portable Electronic Devices interfere with the administration of justice or cause a threat to safety or security, he or she may prohibit Portable Electronic Devices from being carried into the courthouse or specific courtrooms. Storage for such devices is available at no cost to the court visitor at the security entrances.

This Order applies to the Courts within the Third Judicial Circuit. The Resident Circuit Judge of Bond County is authorized to issue local orders, rules or protocols, consistent herewith, and for the limited purpose of implementing the provisions of this order in that County.

*The Clerk of the Circuit Court is to notify all parties of record by posting on its website and emailing attorneys and by other appropriate means.*

*It is further ordered that this order be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Madison County, Illinois and that said order be made available to the members of the bar and public.*

ENTER: March 31, 2022

  
William A. Mudge  
Chief Judge