

STATE OF MICHIGAN



SAGINAW COUNTY TRIAL COURT
111 South Michigan Avenue
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ANDRÉ R. BORRELLO

JULIE A. GAFKAY
CHIEF CIRCUIT JUDGE

ELIAN FICHTNER

BRITTANY A. DICKEN

A.T. FRANK

DARNELL JACKSON

TERRY L. CLARK
CHIEF DISTRICT JUDGE

DAVID D. HOFFMAN

BARBARA L. METER

PATRICK J. MCGRAW
CHIEF PROBATE JUDGE

M. RANDALL JURRENS

MANVEL TRICE III

Local Administrative Order

10 th Circuit Court	2023 – 04J
Saginaw Probate Court	2023 – 03J
70 th District Court	2023 – 06J

Rescinds Local Administrative Order Numbers

10 th Circuit Court	2013-08-J
Saginaw Probate Court	2013-02-J
70 th District Court	2013-04-J

Electronic Device Policy

This administrative order is issued in accordance with MCR 8.115.

1. Portable electronic devices are permitted in Michigan courthouses. “Portable electronic device” includes a mobile device capable of electronically storing accessing, or transmitting information. The term encompasses, among other things, a transportable computer of any size, including a tablet, a notebook, and a laptop; a smart phone, a cell phone, or other wireless phone; a camera and other audio or video recording devices; a

personal digital assistant (PDA); other devices that provide internet access; and any similar items.

2. *Allowed Uses.* Attorneys, parties, and members of the public are permitted to use portable electronic devices in a courtroom to retrieve and store information (including notetaking), to access the Internet, and to send and receive text messages or information. Attorneys, parties, and member of the public may use a portable electronic device to reproduce public court documents in a clerk's office as long as the device leaves no mark or impression of the document and does not unreasonably interfere with the operations of the clerk's office.
3. *Prohibited Uses.* Attorneys, parties, and members of the public must silence portable electronic devices while in the courtroom. A portable electronic device may not be used, without permission of the court, to make or to receive telephone calls or for any other audible function while court is in session. Portable electronic deices may not be used to communicate in any way with any courtroom participant including but not limited to, a party, a witness, or juror at any time during any court proceeding.
4. *Prohibited Uses related to photography, recording, and broadcasting.* In the courtroom, except for requests for film or electronic media coverage which have been granted, no one may use a portable electronic device to take photographs or for audio or video recording, broadcasting, or live streaming, unless allowed by the judge. Outside the courtroom, no one may photograph, record, broadcast, or live stream an individual without that individual's prior express consent. No one may photograph, record, broadcast, or live stream any juror or anyone called to the court for jury service.
5. *Jurors.* Jurors must turn off their portable electronic device while in the courtroom and the court may order jurors to turn in the portable electronic device during deliberation.
6. *Witnesses.* Witnesses must silence their portable electronic device while in a courtroom and may only use a device while testifying with permission of the judge.
7. Any allowed use of possession of a portable electronic device is subject to termination by a judge if that use "is disruptive or distracting to a court proceeding, or...is otherwise contrary to the administration of justice."
8. *Violations.* If a rule is violated, the presiding judge may confiscate the device for the remainder of the day or order that the device be turned off and put away. Violations are punishable by appropriate sanctions up to and including contempt of court.
9. *Notice.* Each Court Administrator is directed to post conspicuous notice of this policy in appropriate locations.
10. This policy is not intended as an exhaustive expression of standards of decorum to be observed in court related facilities, or to otherwise limit judges' expressor inherent authority.

Effective Date

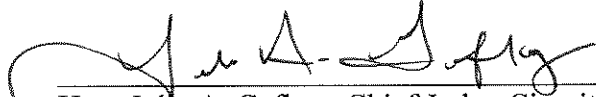
This plan shall take effect upon approval of the State Court Administrative Office.

IT IS ORDERED.

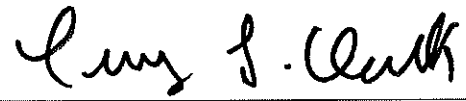
11/22/2023
Date

11-27-2023
Date

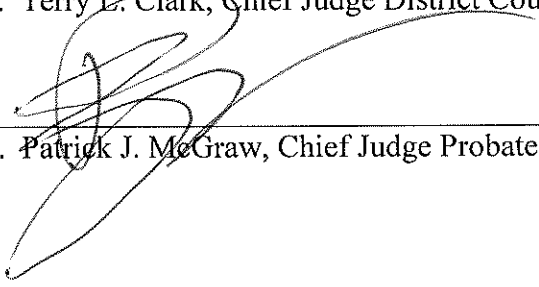
11/22/23
Date



Hon. Julie A. Gafkay, Chief Judge Circuit Court



Hon. Terry L. Clark, Chief Judge District Court



Hon. Patrick J. McGraw, Chief Judge Probate Court