

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLA WALLA

Administrative Order: Re Cellular Phones/Electronic Devices
(Amended 4/4/19)
File No. 25019

- I. GENERAL PROVISIONS: The use of cell phones, iPads, Smartphones, computer tablets/notebooks such as Kindle or Surface, and other similar electronic or communication devices (hereinafter “devices”) have become an important part of work and personal lives for many attorneys, litigants and other courtroom participants. However, these devices also can be potential security risks if used to disguise a firearm or detonator; can be used to photograph and intimidate parties, witnesses and jurors; can cause disruptions and distractions in the courtroom; and can potentially demean the atmosphere of the courtroom. An oral directive governing electronic devices on the third floor of the Walla Walla County Courthouse has proven useful for several years. This Order replaces the Court’s policy and amends and supplements the prior orders entered November 13, 2006, and July 13.
- II. PROHIBITIONS: All devices described above shall be taken into the courtroom only if turned off or muted. Such devices cannot be used to photograph, record or broadcast from anywhere within the Walla Walla County Superior Court courtrooms without prior approval from the Walla Walla County Superior Court Judges per GR 16. Use of any device to photograph, record or broadcast from anywhere within the Walla Walla County Superior Court courtrooms 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 policy and continues to photograph, record or broadcast after being told not to do so will be subject to arrest for criminal trespass.
- III. EXEMPT PERSONS: The following persons are exempt from this prohibition:
- a. Judicial officers, including attorneys familiar with the terms of this order.
 - b. Authorized DOC and law enforcement officers on official business.
 - c. Court employees and recognized federal/state/county employees on official business.
 - d. Other persons specifically exempted by the judge.

Usage of electronic devices by exempt persons is limited to that which is necessary and related to pending cases and emergency office matters. Usage must be either silent or outside the courtroom. Usage should be as brief as possible. All signaling shall be muted. No phone calls may be placed or accepted in the courtroom except in case of emergency or by express permission from the judge.

IV. VIOLATION PENALTIES: If a cell phone or other device signals in the courtroom, the presiding judge therein may hold its possessor in contempt, confiscate the device or impose a financial penalty or other sanction including loss of cell phone privileges. CJC 2.8.

This order will be administered consistent with GR 16.

SO ORDERED this 11th day of April, 2019.

/s/ M. Scott Wolfram
M. Scott Wolfram, Presiding Judge

/s/ John W. Lohrmann
John W. Lohrmann, Judge