

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
LASALLE, BUREAU AND GRUNDY COUNTIES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 22-5
PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

Administrative Order 21-23 is hereby rescinded and replaced with this Administrative Order.

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court's Policy on Portable Electronic Devices as of January 2022 requires judicial circuits to implement a portable electronic devices policy regarding the public's ability to bring their portable electronic devices into the courthouse; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit has determined that portable electronic devices interfere with the administration of justice and are likely to cause a threat to the safety and security of employees, defendants, jurors and witnesses in Courthouses where criminal matters are heard and has determined that possession of portable electric devices should be prohibited by court visitors in said courthouses except for certain exceptions listed below. Portable electronic devices are permitted in the LaSalle County Courthouse (Downtown Ottawa Courthouse) where civil matters are heard under the conditions listed below.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that, effective immediately, the following procedures are in effect in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit:

1) Purpose and Scope.

The purpose of this Administrative Order is to provide guidance regarding the public's ability to bring their portable electronic devices into the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court. This Administrative Order seeks to respect the interests and needs of the people who enter the courthouses and courtrooms of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court, while recognizing and serving the need to maintain order and safety.

2) Definitions.

- a) "Portable electronic devices" are mobile devices capable of electronically storing, accessing, or transmitting information and is defined to include personal computers, tablet computers, mobile telephones (including cell phones and any form of telephone with cameras and audio and video recording and transmission capabilities), electronic calendars, or similar devices.
- b) "Court visitor" means any individual present at the courthouse in LaSalle, Bureau, or Grundy Counties, other than county officials, employees, licensed attorneys, law enforcement officers and jurors.

3) Portable Electronic Device Policy.

The use of portable electric devices by court visitors are prohibited in the courthouse, unless permitted pursuant to one of the below exceptions:

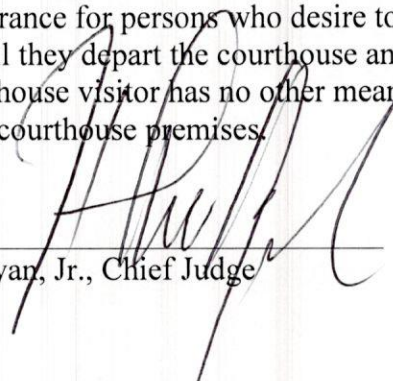
1. As permitted by the Sheriff in courthouse facilities other than courtrooms;
2. As authorized by the Judge presiding in the courtroom in question; or

3. As authorized by an officer of the court, including the Circuit Clerk, in order for the court visitor to discreetly attend to court business; or
4. Members of the Media, including as permitted pursuant to court order under the Supreme Court's Extended Media Coverage Policy.
5. In the LaSalle County Courthouse (Downtown Ottawa Courthouse) under the following conditions:
 - a. Portable electronic devices must always be off or on "silent" mode and may be used in common areas including lobbies and hallways as long as it does not disrupt others, does not interfere with operations of Courthouse business and does not threaten the safety and security of others.
 - b. **COUR VISITORS ARE PROHIBITED FROM TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEO OR MAKING AUDIO RECORDINGS AT ANY TIME.**
 - c. Case participants including lawyers, parties (including self-represented litigants), and witnesses may use a portable electronic device inside a courtroom with the Judge's permission to check calendars or present case-related information. All other uses of portable electronic devices inside courtrooms is prohibited without permission of the Judge.
6. 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 court facilities, found in contempt of court, or subject to penalties as provided by law.

4) Storage for Portable Electronic Devices.

The courthouse will provide a limited number of locked storage units for portable electronic devices, at no cost to the court visitor, at the security entrance for persons who desire to store their portable electronic devices in a secure location until they depart the courthouse and who represent to courthouse security personnel that the courthouse visitor has no other means of storage available such as a parked vehicle at or near the courthouse premises.

Dated: 2/17/2022



H. Chris Ryan, Jr., Chief Judge

Distribution:

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