

---

**AMENDED ORDER REGARDING THE USE  
OF ELECTRONIC AND RECORDING  
DEVICES IN COURT FACILITES**

---

The above-entitled matter came before the Honorable John H. Guthmann, Chief Judge of the Second Judicial District on the request of the Second Judicial District Court Administrator to amend a previous Administrative Order regarding the possession and use of **Recording Devices** and **Electronic Devices** in courtrooms and other areas of a **Courthouse Complex** in the Second Judicial District. Pursuant to the administrative authority of the Chief Judge under Minn. Stat. § 484.69, subd. 3; the inherent judicial power of the Court under Article 1, § 8, Article 3, § 1, and Article 6, § 1 of the Minnesota Constitution; Rule 4.01 of the General Rules of Practice for the District Courts, and Minnesota Judicial Branch Policy 521, the court issues the following Order amending Chief Judge Kathleen Gearin's Order dated October 14, 2010 and superseding Bench Policy P 15.02:

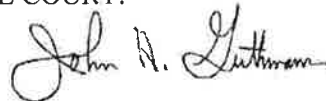
**ORDER**

1. For purposes of this Order, the following definitions apply:
  - a. A "**Courthouse Complex**" is any building where court functions are conducted in the Second Judicial District.
  - b. A "**Common Area**" includes hallways, restrooms, elevators, stairwells, and conference rooms on a floor where a courtroom is located, a jury assembly area and areas adjacent to it, court administrative offices and areas adjacent to them, and the floor on which a Grand Jury has been convened.
  - c. A "**Recording Device**" is a device capable of recording pictures, video, or audio.
  - d. An "**Electronic Device**" is a device that is capable of recording, receiving and/or transmitting electronic data, including but not limited to cell phones, iPads, iPods, mp3 players, electronic tablets, or laptop computers.
2. Except as expressly permitted in other paragraphs of this Order, **Recording Devices** are not permitted in any courtroom or **Common Area** of a **Courthouse Complex**.
3. **Electronic Devices** are permitted and may be used in the **Common Areas** of a **Courthouse Complex** but such devices shall not be used for taking pictures or recording video or audio. In addition, electronic devices shall not be used to disrupt court business and they shall be used in "SILENT" mode only.
4. **Electronic Devices** and **Recording Devices** are permitted and may be used to take photos, video, and audio in Memorial Hall and the elevator lobby of the Ramsey County main courthouse.

5. Except as provided in paragraphs 6 and 7, **Electronic Devices** are permitted and may be brought into a courtroom, but must first be powered OFF and not accessed or used.
6. Only licensed attorneys, justice system professionals, law enforcement personnel, and persons explicitly authorized by the Judicial Officer presiding in the courtroom, may use **Electronic Devices** in a courtroom. Only law enforcement personnel may have body worn cameras in a courtroom. These **Electronic Devices** may be powered ON but must be kept and operated only in SILENT mode. Any authorized use of these **Electronic Devices** must not distract the proceedings pursuant to the Rules of Decorum. In addition, voice communication and the recording of pictures, video, or audio are prohibited in courtrooms unless specifically approved by the presiding judge or judicial officer pursuant to Rule 4.02 of the Rules of General Practice.
7. Cameras, video equipment, filming equipment, and audio recording equipment may be used in courtrooms or common areas by authorized law enforcement personnel for courtroom security purposes, authorized court personnel as part of their duty to keep an accurate record, or for interactive video hearings pursuant to rule or order of the Supreme Court.
8. Law enforcement, judges, and judicial officers are authorized to remove persons from court proceedings to ensure compliance with this policy. Any **Electronic Device** or **Recording Device** that is possessed or used in a manner that is not in compliance with this policy may be seized. Any person violating this policy risks being found in contempt of court or facing the imposition of other appropriate sanctions.
9. Exceptions to this Order may be made only by order of the chief judge, the chief judge's designee, or by any judge or judicial officer of the Second District pursuant to Rule 4.02 of the Rules of General Practice.
10. Any judge or judicial officer who decides to allow the use of **Recording Devices** in their courtroom when court is in session shall notify other judges or judicial officers on the floor.
11. This Order is effective immediately and supersedes any previous Order issued by a Chief Judge of the Second Judicial District. The Second Judicial District Court Administrator is directed to post a copy of this Order in all Second Judicial District **Courthouse Complexes** and on the Second District website.

Dated: February 17, 2017

BY THE COURT:



Guthmann, John (Judge)  
Feb 17 2017 1:45 PM

John H. Guthmann  
Chief Judge, Second Judicial District

**FILED**

FEB 17 2017

**RAMSEY DISTRICT COURT**  
HMK ✓