

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CAMERAS, COMMUNICATION DEVICES AND COMPUTERS
IN THE COURTROOM
Order 13

It is hereby Ordered by the Judges of the District Court of the Eighth Judicial District that:

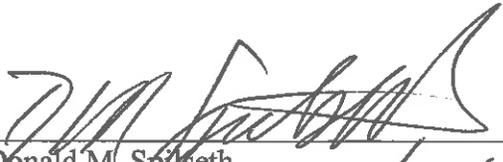
1. **Pictures and Recordings.** The provisions of M.R.Gen.P. 4.01 and 4.02 shall apply unless specifically exempted as part of a pilot program.
2. **Computers and Communication Devices.**
 - A. A communication device includes any radio or phone, including a phone that includes the ability to perform as a computer, text, e-mail, engage in social networking, take pictures, record sound, or perform other communication tasks.
 - B. Attorneys and Pro Se parties may possess and use a computer or communication device during the presentation of their case to the Court in the Courtroom. In connection therewith, the computer or communication device shall:
 - a. Have the camera, if so equipped, off at all times.
 - b. Have any recording capability off at all times.
 - c. Have any notification sound muted at all times. Silent vibration is permitted.
 - d. Not be used for voice communication without specific Court permission.
 - e. Not text, e-mail or engage in any communication that is not directly related to the case they are presenting.
 - C. Attorneys waiting for their cases to be called may, while in the gallery, use their Computer or Communication Device in the following manner:
 - a. Have the camera, if so equipped, off at all times.
 - b. Have any recording capability off at all times.
 - c. Have any notification sound muted at all times. Silent vibration is permitted.
 - d. Not use the device for voice communication without specific Court permission.

- D. Parties to cases who are represented by counsel shall not use a computer or communication device in the Courtroom unless specifically authorized by the Court. If so authorized, the computer or communication device shall:
- a. Have the camera, if so equipped, off at all times.
 - b. Have any recording capability off at all times.
 - c. Have any notification sound muted at all times. Silent vibration is permitted.
 - d. Not be used for voice communication without specific Court permission.
 - e. Not be used to text, e-mail or engage in any communication that is not directly related to the case they are presenting.
- E. Witnesses. May only use a computer or communication device as part of their presentation of evidence. At all other times they shall be subject to the rules for spectators.
- F. Jurors.
- a. During Jury Selection, jurors may have computers and communication devices in their possession, but must have them turned off while in the Courtroom.
 - b. Once the jury is empanelled, jurors shall not possess any computer or communication device in the courtroom without specific Court authorization.
 - c. During deliberations, the jurors shall not have possession of a computer or communication device in the jury room. Jury attendants shall take possession of these devices and return them to jurors only during breaks in deliberations. In connection with this policy Jurors shall not use a computer or communication device to research any issue or fact regarding the case, including without limitation researching social network sites, blogs, or other media about the case. These devices shall not be used to communicate any information whatsoever about the facts or circumstances of the case, or opinions or statements regarding the case. Jurors may communicate with family or employers concerning their juror activities solely about scheduling issues.
- G. **Courtroom spectators** shall have all computers and communication devices turned off at all times while in the Courtroom unless otherwise specifically granted permission by the Court.

3. **Cameras and Voice Recording devices.** Unless part of a Computer or Communication Device, cameras and voice recording devices are not permitted in the Courtroom without specific authorization from the Court.
4. **Areas adjacent to the Courtroom.** This policy applies to the following specific areas: Court Administration offices and to the hallways, waiting areas and stairwells, if any, adjacent to any Courtroom, Judicial Chambers or Court Administration areas of the Courthouse plus the following general areas:
 - i. **Big Stone:** The stairway between the second and third floor and the entire third floor of the courthouse.
 - ii. **Chippewa:** Upper floor of the courthouse and the stairways leading to it.
 - iii. **Grant:** The third floor and the stairway between the second and third floor of the courthouse.
 - iv. **Kandiyohi:** All areas of the courthouse.
 - v. **Lac qui Parle:** Upper floor of the courthouse.
 - vi. **Meeker:** The entire fifth floor of the courthouse.
 - vii. **Pope:** The third floor of the courthouse and the stairway between the second floor and the third floor.
 - viii. **Renville:** All areas of the second and third floor of the courthouse.
 - ix. **Stevens:** The second floor of the courthouse except for days when county commissioners are meeting. No access to courts.
 - x. **Swift:** The entire floor on which the courtrooms are located.
 - xi. **Traverse:** The stairway to the second floor and the entire second floor of the courthouse.
 - xii. **Wilkin:** The entire interior of the Wilkin County Courthouse and Wilkin County Law Enforcement Center
 - xiii. **Yellow Medicine:** Second Floor or courtroom level of the courthouse and the small courtroom on the ground level of the courthouse.
- A. All cameras and sound recorders shall be turned off.
- B. Use of computers and communication devices is permitted as long as their use does not interfere with the orderly process of the Court or Court Administration, the security of the Courthouse, or the privacy and security of the general public. This general provision is subject to specific Order of any District Court Judge.
5. The Court, or any Court security officer, may request to inspect any computer or communication device at any time to determine if the device is in compliance with this Order. Refusal to allow inspection is subject to the penalties listed in this Order.
6. **Penalties.** Any person disobeying this order may, at the discretion of the Court:

- A. Have their camera, computer or communication device taken by security personnel, and held until such time as the individual leaves the Courthouse;
 - B. Have their camera, computer or communications device inspected for violations of this order, and any prohibited recordings deleted.
 - C. Be ordered to leave the Courtroom, adjacent areas, or Courthouse entirely.
 - D. Be found in Contempt of Court and be subject to sanctions, including a fine or jail.
7. **Courtroom Security and Court Personnel.** The provisions herein do not apply to Courtroom security or Court personnel, including court interpreters, while in the performance of their duties. Courtroom security personnel may enforce this Order.
8. Pursuant to M.R.Gen.P. 4.02 et. seq. District Court Judges may, in their sole discretion, permit exemptions to this Order on an individual case basis.

This order was approved by the judges of the Eighth Judicial District on September 25, 2015.



Donald M. Spillseth
Chief Judge
Eighth Judicial District

9/29/15