

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE:

POSSESSION AND USE OF ELECTRONIC  
DEVICES IN COURTHOUSES

STANDING ORDER NO. 2022-13

(Supersedes Standing Order 2005-03)

**STANDING ORDER**

**AND NOW**, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the following updated Electronic Device Policy applies to the United States courthouses in Scranton, Harrisburg, Williamsport and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania:

- (1) The term "Electronic Devices" refers to those devices (both currently available as well as future technology) that have as their primary function wireless communication, the storage and retrieval of digitized data, and computer applications.
- (2) All persons granted entrance into the Federal Courthouse are permitted to possess any Electronic Device, as defined herein, including cellular telephones, smart phones, laptop computers and tablets. However, unless otherwise permitted by court order, use of any device to take photographs or video anywhere inside the Federal Courthouse is expressly forbidden.<sup>1</sup>
- (3) Before persons with Electronic Devices are granted entry into the courthouse, all devices must be physically examined by Court Security Personnel. This examination includes, but is not limited to, placing the device through an X-Ray machine and any other physical assessment deemed necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> This restriction shall not apply to tenant agencies in performance of their professional responsibilities within the courthouse.

- (4) Persons possessing an Electronic Device may use their device while in common areas of the courthouse. The power to all electronic devices must be turned off upon entry to a courtroom or judicial chambers. An Electronic Device may be rendered operable in any courtroom or judicial chambers only with the express permission of the presiding judge.
- (5) Jurors in possession of electronic devices will be subject to the exclusions set forth in Paragraph 4 of this Standing Order. Jurors shall also surrender these devices to court staff prior to entering the jury room to commence deliberations.
- (6) The provisions of this Order may be superseded on a temporary basis in the interests of security and in order to ensure fair and impartial justice in individual cases.

BY THE COURT:



Matthew W. Brann

Chief United States District Judge