



Policy on Use of Electronic Devices in U.S. Courthouses in the District of Minnesota

(Effective March 13, 2017)

Members of the public (including media representatives and attorneys) may bring electronic devices (including smart phones, tablets, and laptops) into any U.S. Courthouse in the District of Minnesota subject to the following restrictions:

1. **Subject to inspection.** Any electronic device brought into a U.S. Courthouse may be inspected by a Deputy U.S. Marshal or Court Security Officer.
2. **No photography, recording, broadcasting, or transmission allowed.** Unless specifically authorized by the Chief Judge or by a judge presiding over a ceremonial court proceeding, no person may use an electronic device to photograph or record any court proceeding, courtroom, court office, or court staff member, or to broadcast or otherwise transmit any part of any court proceeding.
3. **Use in courtrooms.** Any electronic device that is brought into a courtroom must be powered off and stored away; an electronic device must not be held in any person's hand. The presiding judge may authorize an exception to this rule for (1) a media representative or (2) an attorney who has appeared in the matter.
4. **Violations of this Policy.** Any person who violates this Policy must be removed from a courtroom or courthouse by a Deputy U.S. Marshal or Court Security Officer. In addition, a Deputy U.S. Marshal or Court Security Officer may confiscate any electronic device from any person who violates paragraph 2 of this policy, provided that the Deputy U.S. Marshal or Court Security Officer immediately presents the device and the alleged violator to the presiding judge or Chief Judge.