

MARTINSVILLE GENERAL DISTRICT COURT PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES, SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY FORM OF PHONE WITH CAMERAS, AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING AND TRANSMISSION CAPABILITIES, ELECTRONIC CALENDARS, E-BOOK READERS, AND "SMART" WATCHES MUST BE TURNED OFF BEFORE ENTERING THE COURTROOM. IF THE USE OF A PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE IS AUTHORIZED IN THE COURTROOM, THEY MUST REMAIN OFF AT ALL TIMES AND ONLY USED FOR THE PURPOSE AUTHORIZED BY THE PRESIDING JUDGE. PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO RECORDING, AUDIO RECORDING, OR VIDEO TRANSMISSION OR COMMUNICATION OF ANY INFORMATION USING MEDIA FROM INSIDE THE COURTROOM IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE.

ANY PERSON USING A PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE IN VIOLATION OF THIS OR ANY OTHER COURT ORDER OR POLICY MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE COURTROOM, FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF COURT, AND SUBJECT TO PENALTIES AS PROVIDED BY LAW. ANY PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE USED IN VIOLATION OF THIS OR ANY OTHER COURT ORDER OR POLICY MAY BE CONFISCATED, AND THE SHERIFF AND/OR THE COURT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGE TO OR LOSS OF A CONFISCATED DEVICE.

A JUDGE MAY FURTHER LIMIT OR BAN THE POSSESSION OR USE OF ANY PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE PURSUANT TO § 19.2-266 OR IF POSSESSION OR USE OF THE DEVICE MAY OR DOES INTERFERE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE OR CAUSE ANY THREAT TO SAFETY OR SECURITY, OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON.

PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE ALLOWED IN THE COMMON AREAS/HALLWAYS SUBJECT TO SECURITY SCREENING. HOWEVER, RESTRICTIONS MAY BE IMPOSED AS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN SAFETY, SECURITY, PROPER BEHAVIOR, ORDER, AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE. ALL DEVICES MUST BE PLACED IN SILENT MODE AT ALL TIMES. OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES, SUCH AS CAMERAS AND RECORDING EQUIPMENT, ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE COMMON AREAS WITHOUT WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE.