

**EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT:  
ARAPAHOE, DOUGLAS, ELBERT and  
LINCOLN COUNTIES, COLORADO**

Arapahoe County Justice Center  
7325 South Potomac Street  
Centennial, Colorado 80112

Arapahoe County Courthouse  
1790 West Littleton Boulevard  
Littleton, Colorado 80120

Douglas County Justice Center  
4000 Justice Way, #2009  
Castle Rock, Colorado 80109

Elbert County Courthouse  
PO Box 232, 751 Ute Street  
Kiowa, Colorado 80117

Lincoln County Courthouse  
PO Box 128, 103 Third Avenue  
Hugo, Colorado 80821

**▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲**

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CJO 14-21  
Revised September 18,  
2017

**CHIEF JUDGE ORDER CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN  
JUDICIAL BUILDINGS**

Pursuant to authority granted to chief judges of the judicial districts of the State of Colorado by Chief Justice Directive 95-01, "Authority and Responsibility of Chief Judges," the following order is hereby entered:

In all courtrooms: All electronic devices shall be turned off or set to vibrate and silent ring settings. Laptop computers may be used for note-taking so long as such use is not disruptive of court proceedings and the computer is muted. Laptop computers may be used for other purposes only by court personnel, sheriff deputies, and attorneys and their staff. Except as otherwise provided for in this Order, no person except court personnel, law enforcement officers, and attorneys and their staff may use an electronic device to transmit information from the courtroom. However, no person, except court personnel, may make a sound or photographic recording (still or video, including by laptop computer, phone, or any

other electronic device) of any proceeding or person, including, but not limited to, jurors, witnesses, or parties. Official transcripts of proceedings may be ordered through the office of the Clerk of the Court. A judicial officer retains the discretion to further restrict use and possession of electronic devices in a courtroom.

In all hallways and public areas of the courthouse buildings (other than in courtrooms): Electronic devices may be used so long as such use is not disruptive of court proceedings. Cell phones must be set to vibrate and silent ring settings and may not be used to capture images (except of court documents), videos, or sound recordings. Use of any type of audio- or video-recording device, including, but not limited to, cell phones, in the clerk's office, clerk's window, jury assembly room, or other areas of the courthouse where jurors are located is strictly prohibited without the express consent of the Court. The Chief Judge retains the discretion to further restrict use and possession of electronic devices in hallways and public areas of the courthouse buildings (other than courtrooms).

Media: Members of the media desiring access to the courthouse with cameras or other recording devices shall be required to present a valid media credential or other valid photo identification and business card at the security checkpoint. For those with a valid media credential, or government-issued photo identification and a business card from a news media organization, cameras shall be permitted and may be used in the hallways and public areas of the courthouse buildings. The use of cameras may be limited to designated areas in the courthouse buildings. Public Access to Records and Information Court Rule 3, Chapter 38, governing Expanded Media Coverage applies, as cameras and other video and audio recording devices are not allowed in courtrooms without the express consent of the presiding judicial officer.

Exceptions: Exceptions to these rules may be granted by a judicial officer only with the prior approval of the Chief Judge.

Violations: Anyone found to be in violation of this Order may be subject to contempt proceedings. Sanctions for contempt of Court may be remedial, punitive, or both, including a fine and/or a jail sentence. All judicial officers, court security personnel, and law enforcement officers are authorized to prohibit any electronic item when they have probable cause to believe that such item is being used in violation of this order. If a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that any phone, camera, or other electronic device was used or is being used in a courtroom, a hallway, or a public area of a courthouse building in violation of this Order, he or she may immediately confiscate such item. Law enforcement officers shall have the discretion to temporarily secure—in the courthouse involved—any item confiscated for purposes of conducting an investigation of a violation of this

Order.

The item confiscated may be searched with the consent of the owner of the item. In the alternative, if consent is refused or cannot be obtained, a law enforcement officer may apply for a search warrant. A law enforcement officer may conduct a warrantless search of the item without the owner's consent and without a search warrant only when an exception to the warrant rule applies or when otherwise authorized by law. Any application for a search warrant must be prepared and submitted to the on-duty judicial officer as soon as practicable and without undue or unnecessary delay. An application for a search warrant shall be reviewed by the on-duty judicial officer as soon as practicable and without undue or unnecessary delay. If the search of an electronic device reveals that it contains potential evidence that may be material to an allegation of indirect contempt, a law enforcement officer may request that the judicial officer presiding in the courtroom involved (or, in the case of a violation occurring outside a courtroom, the Chief Judge) issue a citation for contempt. In the event of alleged direct contempt, the judicial officer presiding in the courtroom involved shall decide whether to commence contempt proceedings. If a citation for contempt issues or if a judicial officer initiates direct contempt proceedings, the electronic device in question may be impounded by law enforcement pending resolution of the citation for contempt. The judicial officer assigned to the courtroom (or, in the case of a violation occurring outside a courtroom, the Chief Judge) may hold a contempt hearing and determine what sanctions, if any, to impose.

This CJO 14-21 rescinds and replaces all previous CJOs in the Eighteenth Judicial District addressing electronic devices in judicial buildings. That includes all previous versions of this CJO 14-21 Order.

Entered this 18th day of September of 2017.

BY THE COURT:



Carlos A. Samour, Jr.

Chief Judge

Eighteenth Judicial District