

# **Supreme Court of Colorado**

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BRIAN D. BOATRIGHT  
CHIEF JUSTICE

## **SUPREME COURT OF COLORADO OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE**

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### **ORDER REGARDING ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND RECORDING FOR THE COURTHOUSE AT THE RALPH L. CARR JUDICIAL CENTER**

As the Chief Executive head of the judicial system pursuant to the Colorado Constitution, Article VI, Section 5(2), I hereby issue the following Chief Justice Order governing use of electronic devices at the Courthouse of the Ralph L. Carr Judicial Center (“Ralph Carr Courthouse”).

The Colorado Supreme Court has the responsibility and authority to ensure the efficient performance of judicial functions, to protect the dignity, independence, and integrity of the courts, and to make the lawful actions of the Court effective. Specifically, the Colorado Supreme Court must ensure that individuals who work in, transact business in, and visit the Ralph Carr Courthouse are able to access the justice system freely, in a safe and orderly fashion, and unhindered by violence, abuse, threats, interference, intimidation, or harassment. Furthermore, the Colorado Supreme Court must minimize conduct and activities that unreasonably interfere or disrupt with the orderly and peaceful conduct of court business by ensuring a neutral forum free of actual or perceived partiality, bias, prejudice, or favoritism. Accordingly, I find that it is reasonable, necessary, and appropriate to impose certain restrictions on the use of electronic devices conduct in the Ralph Carr Courthouse without regard to the content or viewpoint of any particular message, idea, or form of speech.

This Order only applies to the Ralph Carr Courthouse, which is defined as: the area of the Ralph L. Carr Judicial Center south of the exterior doors of the building entrance on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and north of the interior sign near the courtyard marked “Courthouse,” including the courtrooms of the Colorado Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, the rotunda, the Supreme Court Library, the Colorado Judicial Learning Center, and the Clerks’ Office of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. This Order does not limit the authority of judicial officers to issue necessary and reasonable orders governing the use of electronic devices in their courtrooms.

## **USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND RECORDING EQUIPMENT**

- a) **Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Courtrooms:** The Judicial Department livestreams all official proceedings as they happen and archives the proceedings on the respective courts' webpages. Accordingly, personal and employer issued electronic devices may only be used inside these courtrooms subject to the following restrictions:
1. All electronic devices must be muted in the courtrooms.
  2. The use of laptops, cell phones, and other electronic devices for notetaking, livestreaming, or social media is prohibited. Counsel arguing before the courts may use a laptop or electronic device during their case.
  3. Recording proceedings in the courtrooms is prohibited unless a request for Expanded Media Coverage has been granted by the Court.
  4. Except for security personnel and Court personnel, no person shall use an electronic or other device to take photographs, make audio or video recordings, make telephone calls, or transmit live audio or video streaming of any proceeding, unless a request for Expanded Media Coverage has been granted by the Court.
  5. Colorado Supreme Court Rules, Chapter 38, Court Rule 3, Media Coverage of Court Proceedings shall be followed for all requests for expanded media coverage inside these courtrooms.
- b) **Clerks' Office and Supreme Court Library:** Except for authorized law enforcement and security personnel, no person shall use an electronic or other device to make audio or video recordings or transmit live audio or video streaming in any part of the Supreme Court Library or the Clerks' Office of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, unless specifically permitted by the Clerk of the Supreme Court, the Clerk of the Court of Appeals, or the Supreme Court Librarian, or their respective designees..
- c) **Public areas of the Ralph Carr Courthouse:** Except in the Clerks' Offices and Supreme Court Library, electronic devices may be used, including audio or video recording or transmitting, in the public areas of the Ralph Carr Courthouse so long as the use is not disruptive of court-related business.
- d) **Covert Recording Prohibited:** Except for state, federal, or local law enforcement officers, the following electronic devices are strictly prohibited in the Ralph Carr Courthouse: "GoPro" cameras, body-worn cameras, and electronic or other devices used to surreptitiously photograph or record. Surreptitious devices are those intended to operate covertly and include, but are not limited to, hidden surveillance cameras and any other recording or photography devices attached to or concealed in clothing or other objects. This prohibition does not include personal, or employer issued cell phones, tablet computers, laptops, or smart watches, although these and similar items remain subject to the prohibition on photography, audio, or video recording, or transmitting live audio or video streaming described above.

All persons shall comply with the lawful requests, directions, and orders of law enforcement officers and security personnel in the performance of their duties. Failure to do so will constitute a violation of this Order. Any violation of this Order may result in removal from the building and/or contempt proceedings. This Order shall not operate to preclude law enforcement officers or security personnel from taking additional appropriate measures to ensure the orderly and peaceful conduct of court and court-related business in the Ralph Carr Courthouse.