

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 23-12  
November 13, 2023**

**CHIEF JUDGE ORDER 23-12 CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN  
JUDICIAL BUILDINGS AND PROBATION OFFICES IN THE  
EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

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 undersigned, in her role as the Chief Judge of the Eighteenth Judicial District, enters the following specific orders regarding the use of electronic devices by the public in judicial buildings and probation offices in the Eighteenth Judicial District. This CJO 23-12 is entered in order to ensure fair and orderly conduct of court proceedings, to maintain proper judicial decorum, and to protect the dignity and integrity of the court. Electronic devices include, but are not limited to, devices such as cell phones, laptops, computer tablets, and any other device capable of taking photographs and/or audio or video recording.

For all court proceedings in the Eighteenth Judicial District, including any court proceedings that are remote proceedings or live streamed, **ONLY THE COURT HAS THE AUTHORITY TO CAPTURE THE OFFICIAL COURT RECORD. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS OF PROCEEDINGS MAY BE ORDERED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE COURT.**

### **COURTROOMS:**

All electronic devices shall be turned off or set to vibrate or silent mode settings. An electronic device may be used if it is not disruptive and the presiding judicial officer, or the court staff operating under the presiding judicial officer's direction, has not prohibited or restricted its use. No person, except judicial officers and court staff, shall use an electronic device to take photographs, make audio or video recordings or transmit live audio or video streaming of any court proceeding or person including, but not limited to, the judicial officer, jurors, witnesses, or parties.

### **HALLWAYS AND PUBLIC AREAS OF THE COURTHOUSE BUILDINGS:**

Electronic devices may be used so long as such use is not disruptive of court proceedings or court-related business. Electronic devices must be set to vibrate or silent mode and may not be used to capture images (except of court documents), videos, or sound recordings in the hallways and public areas of the courthouse buildings, including, but not limited to, in the clerk's offices, clerk's windows, conference rooms or offices used by family court facilitators, jury assembly rooms, or other areas of the courthouse where jurors are located. 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) and may delegate that authority to the Clerks of Court and/or their designees.

### **PROBATION OFFICES:**

Electronic devices may be used so long as such use is not disruptive of probation meetings or probation-related business. Electronic devices must be set to vibrate or silent mode and may not be used to capture images (except of court documents), videos, or sound recordings in the hallways and public areas of the probation offices. A probation client may use electronic devices for video or sound recording during probation meetings when the probation client has notified the probation officer that they are recording. The Chief Judge retains the discretion to further restrict use and possession of electronic devices in hallways

and public areas of the probation offices and may delegate that authority to the Chief Probation Officer.

**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 government-issued photo identification and business card at the security checkpoint. For those with a valid media credential or government-issued photo identification and business card, cameras shall be permitted and may be used in the hallways and public areas of the courthouse buildings. The use of cameras or other recording devices may be limited to designated areas in the courthouse buildings. Colorado Supreme Court Rules govern the use of cameras and recording devices by the media inside the courtrooms. Public Access to Records and Information Court Rule 3, Chapter 38, governing Expanded Media Coverage of Court Proceedings shall be followed for all requests for expanded media coverage inside the courtroom or for any remote proceedings. Cameras are strictly prohibited inside the courtroom absent an expanded media coverage request being granted by the presiding judicial officer.

**EXCEPTIONS:**

Exceptions to this CJO 23-12 may be granted by a judicial officer only with the prior approval of the Chief Judge. This CJO 23-12 does not limit the authority of individual judicial officers to issue necessary and reasonable orders governing the use of electronic devices inside their courtrooms or in matters pending before them. A judicial officer may further restrict or expand the use and possession of electronic devices in their courtrooms for events such as investitures, ceremonies, adoptions, and weddings.

The use of Body-Worn Cameras within the courthouse by any peace officer acting pursuant to a law enforcement agency's specific policies and procedures shall be exempt from this CJO 23-12. However, only deputies employed by the Office of the Sheriff in Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln Counties and Colorado Department of Corrections officers acting pursuant to their authority in C.R.S. § 16-2.5-135, shall be expressly permitted to use Body-Worn Cameras within a courtroom.

**VIOLATIONS:**

Anyone found to be in violation of this CJO 23-12 is subject to having the

electronic device confiscated and/or lawfully searched and may also be subject to contempt of court proceedings pursuant to C.R.C.P. 107. Sanctions for contempt of court may be remedial, punitive, or both, including a fine and/or a jail sentence. Any judicial officer, court security personnel, or law enforcement officer may immediately confiscate and temporarily secure such electronic device for purposes of investigating a violation of this Order. The judicial officer (or the Chief Judge or a designated judicial officer if the violation occurred outside a courtroom) shall then determine whether contempt proceedings shall be initiated and provide direction as to the disposition of the electronic device and any potential evidence. In the event the search of an electronic device initiated pursuant to a violation of this CJO 23-12 reveals evidence of a separate law violation, law enforcement shall determine what action to take pursuant to their agency protocols for investigating a crime.

This CJO 23-12 replaces the Second Amended CJO 14-21.

Issued this 13th day of November 2023.

**BY THE COURT:**



Michelle A. Amico  
Chief Judge  
Eighteenth Judicial District