



**TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DOUGLAS, ELBERT, and LINCOLN COUNTIES
STATE OF COLORADO**

**CHIEF JUDGE ORDER 2025-22
CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN JUDICIAL BUILDINGS AND
PROBATION OFFICES IN THE TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 14, 2025**

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 his role as the Chief Judge of the 23rd Judicial District, enters the following specific orders regarding the use of electronic devices by the public in judicial buildings and probation offices in the 23rd Judicial District. This CJO 25-22 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, smart watches, and any other device capable of taking photographs and/or audio or video recording. The following electronic devices are strictly prohibited within the judicial buildings and probation offices in the 23rd Judicial District: any device used to surreptitiously photograph or record, which includes without limitation: spy cameras, surveillance cameras, “GoPro” style devices, and any recording, media or photographic device attached to or concealed in clothing or other objects.

For all court proceedings in the 23rd 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:

Excluding attorneys and their staff, all electronic devices must be completely turned off unless permitted by the presiding judicial officer. A device in silent or vibration mode does not comply with this rule. Attorneys and their staff permitted to use electronic devices must ensure that such device does not produce any audible noise. Exceptions shall be made for medical devices and devices necessary for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* No person, except judicial officers and court staff, shall use any 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:

This CJO 25-22 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.

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 25-22. However, only deputies employed by the Office of the Sheriff in 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 25-22 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 25-22 reveals evidence of a separate law violation, law enforcement shall determine what action to take pursuant to their agency protocols for investigating a crime.

Dated this 14th day of January 2025.

BY THE COURT:



Ryan J. Stuart
Chief Judge, 23rd Judicial District