

STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO
COUNTY OF BOONE

AMENDMENT TO GENERAL ORDER 1.09

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT THE ABOVE ENTITLED GENERAL ORDER IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

1.09 Use of Electronic Devices within Court Facilities and Photography, Video and Audio Recordings of Court Proceedings

The purpose of this rule is to implement the provisions of the Supreme Court Rule 63(A)8 and MR. No. 2634 in order to provide for the orderly administration of justice. This order shall not be applied in such a way as to conflict with any Supreme Court Rule.

For purposes of General Order 1.09, “the Internet Of Things” (herein after “IoT”) is defined as the interconnection via the Inter(Intra)net of computing devices embedded in everyday objects, enabling them to send and receive data.

A. Communication and Data Transmission. The use of a cell phone, smart phone or any other IoT device within a courtroom for any purposes, including but not limited to communication by voice, text, email, social media or other medium, is prohibited unless permitted pursuant to one of the below exceptions:

1. By an officer of the court in order to discreetly attend to court business.
2. Extended media coverage as authorized in advance by a presiding judge pursuant to the Illinois Supreme Court Policy on Extended Media Coverage and 17th Circuit Court Local Rule 2.12.
3. As authorized and approved in advance by a presiding judge or the chief judge.

Except as authorized by this rule, any cell phone, smart phone or any other IoT device must be must be turned off and kept out of sight when within a courtroom.

This section does not prohibit the use of any cell phone, smart phone or any other IoT device outside of courtrooms so long as its use does not interfere with any court proceedings.

The use of a cell phone, smart phone or any other IoT device within a courtroom without proper authorization may result in the electronic device being confiscated by the court and the owner/operator being subject to prosecution for contempt.

B. Photography, Video and Audio Recording. The use of a cell phone, smart phone, or any other IoT device capable of taking photographs, video, screenshots, or audio recording of a judicial proceeding, ~~in~~ including but not limited to any courtroom or in areas immediately adjacent to any courtroom (i.e. adjoining conference rooms, hallways, vestibules, etc.) or remote proceeding, for purposes of photography, video and audio recording or rebroadcasting is prohibited unless expressly authorized in advance by the presiding judge or as provided pursuant to one of the below exceptions:

1. The taking of the record of court proceedings by court reporting personnel pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 46.

2. Extended media coverage as authorized in advance by a presiding judge pursuant to the Illinois Supreme Court Policy on Extended Media Coverage and 17th Circuit Court Local Rule 2.12.

3. As authorized and approved in advance by a presiding judge and the chief judge for non-judicial, ceremonial or educational proceedings such as: weddings, induction ceremonies, graduation ceremonies, award ceremonies, dedication ceremonies, mock trials, seminars, speeches, demonstrations, training sessions, journalistic undertakings, public awareness activities and similar events and activities.

C. Facilitation of Court Proceedings. Audio and/or video communication equipment may be used under the direction of Trial Court Administration to facilitate court proceedings as authorized pursuant to:

1. Local Rule 2.10 – Criminal Proceedings by Way of Closed Circuit Television

2. Local Rule 2.11 – Telephonic Appearances

3. The 17th Circuit Court Policy on Language Access

4. As authorized and approved in advance by a presiding judge or the chief judge

5. Illinois Supreme Court Order MR 30370 entered March 17, 2020

D. Security and Closed Circuit Cameras Recordings. All recordings from security and closed circuit cameras monitoring court facilities are the property of the Court regardless of whether actual possession is with another party.

Requests for courthouse security and closed circuit camera recordings shall be submitted to the Office of the Chief Judge in care of the Trial Court Administrator.