	FREDERICKSBURG SHERIFF'S OFFICE MANUAL OF GENERAL ORDERS	REFERENCE
	Portable Electronic Devices	PAGE: 1 OF: 4
	APPROVED: Rashawn Cowles, Sheriff	EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2026 REVISED:

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office to establish clear guidelines for the possession and use of Portable Electronic Devices within the courthouse.

II. PURPOSE

Pursuant to Virginia Sections 16.1-69.35.4 and 17.1-128.2 of the Code of Virginia, the City of Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office adopts the following Portable Electronic Devices Policy.

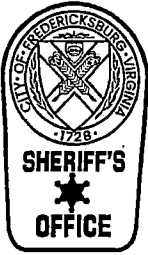
To maintain courthouse security, preserve courtroom decorum, and ensure the orderly administration of justice, the following policy governs the possession and use of portable electronic devices within the courthouse.

III. DEFINITIONS

Code of Virginia 16.1-69.35.4. Possession and use of portable electronic devices in district courts.

"Portable electronic device" means (i) a personal laptop; (ii) a tablet; (iii) a mobile telephone, including a cell phone and any telephone with a camera, audio and video recording capabilities, and transmission capabilities; (iv) an electronic calendar; (v) an electronic book reader; (vi) a smart watch; or (vii) any other electronic personal communication device. "Portable electronic device" does not include a camera, a video camera, video or audio recording equipment, or a recording device that is not otherwise a component of a portable electronic device.

"Visitor to the court" means a member of the public who is not an active or retired judge, a magistrate, an attorney-at-law who possesses and presents a valid state bar identification card, a law-enforcement officer as defined in § 9.1-101 or court security officer, a probation officer who possesses and presents proper credentials and who is at the courthouse in the conduct of his official duties, a state or local agency employee who possesses and presents proper credentials and who is at the courthouse in the conduct of his official duties, a court reporter during the course of his official duties within the courthouse, and any other individual who has been authorized to possess a portable electronic device in the court upon a determination by the sheriff of the city or county in which the court sits that such individual's possession of a portable electronic device does not pose a security risk or threat and that access to such portable electronic device is necessary for conducting such individual's work or business in the court.

	FREDERICKSBURG SHERIFF'S OFFICE MANUAL OF GENERAL ORDERS	REFERENCE
	Portable Electronic Devices	PAGE: 2 OF: 4
	APPROVED: Rashawn Cowles, Sheriff	EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2026 REVISED:

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Yondr Pouch Requirement

Except as provided in the exemptions section of this policy, all portable electronic devices brought into the courthouse shall be secured in a courthouse issued Yondr pouch upon entry.

Visitors to the court entering the courthouse with portable electronic devices must maintain those devices in a locked Yondr pouch at all times while inside the courthouse unless authorized otherwise pursuant to this policy.

Unauthorized removal of a device(s) from a Yondr pouch or use of a device(s) within the courthouse may result in confiscation of the device(s), contempt proceedings, or other sanctions as deemed appropriate by the Court.

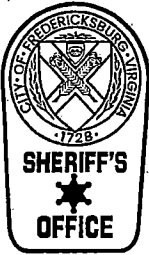
Any portable electronic device confiscated for failure to comply with this policy shall be secured by the Sheriff's Office in the designated cell phone locker located in the front of the courthouse. The device shall be returned to the owner upon completion of their business with the court and prior to their departure from the courthouse. Any cell phone not retrieved after 24 hours will be stored as found property at the Fredericksburg Police Department.

B. Security/Screening

All portable electronic devices entering the courthouse will be screened by a deputy utilizing X-ray and scanning equipment after such devices are secured in a Yondr pouch. Deputies shall visibly inspect all visitors entering the courthouse are to ensure no additional portable electronic devices (to include smart watches) are present and accessible.

All portable electronic devices mentioned in this policy will be stored into a Yondr pouch. Only portable electronic devices, excluding cellular telephones, to be used for official court purposes will be permitted entry into the courthouse.

Sheriff's Deputies will only store electronic devices in the designated locker if, and when there are no Yondr pouches available, or any other extenuating circumstances approved by a supervisor. Visitors to the court will remove their devices from Yondr pouches while

	FREDERICKSBURG SHERIFF'S OFFICE MANUAL OF GENERAL ORDERS	REFERENCE
	Portable Electronic Devices	PAGE: 3 OF: 4
	APPROVED: Rashawn Cowles, Sheriff	EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2026 REVISED:

exiting the secured portion of the courthouse. Sheriff's Deputies will only assist with unlocking the Yondr pouch if assistance is required; however, the visitor to the court will be responsible for removing the device from the Yondr pouch. Sheriff's Deputies are permitted to confiscate a Yondr pouch and/or device and hold such device in a storage locker in the event a visitor to the court is seen tampering with the Yondr pouch in an attempt to access their device without expressed permission by court personnel mentioned in this policy.

C. Use of Device(s) for Evidentiary Purposes

Portable electronic devices may be removed from a Yondr pouch and used in court proceedings for evidentiary purposes only with the express permission of:

- 1. The presiding judge; or**
- 2. The Clerk of Court or their designee.**
- 3. Sheriff's Deputy**

Permission shall be limited to the duration and purpose authorized by the Court.

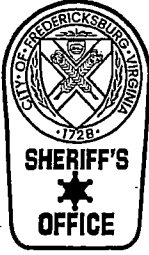
Deputies may seize portable electronic devices at the direction of the judge for evidence or for a violation of court policy.

V. EXEMPTIONS

The following individuals are exempt from the Yondr pouch requirement:

- **Sworn law enforcement officers acting within the scope of their official duties;**
- **Licensed attorneys conducting court business; and**
- **Court personnel and judicial officers performing official duties.**

Exempt individuals remain subject to all applicable courtroom rules, judicial directives, and restrictions regarding photography, recording, broadcasting, and electronic communications.

	FREDERICKSBURG SHERIFF'S OFFICE MANUAL OF GENERAL ORDERS	REFERENCE
	Portable Electronic Devices	PAGE: 4 OF: 4
	APPROVED: Rashawn Cowles, Sheriff	EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2026 REVISED:

VI. DESIGNATED DEVICE USE AREA

Individuals who need to access or use a portable electronic device while conducting business at the courthouse must exit the secured portion of the courthouse and proceed to the designated public use area located in the front lobby.

Portable electronic devices may be removed from a Yondr pouch and used only within this designated front lobby area, unless otherwise authorized by the presiding judge, Clerk of Court, or their designee for evidentiary or official court purposes.

Before re-entering the secured portion of the courthouse, all portable electronic devices shall be returned to and secured within a Yondr pouch. The visitor to the court and their property will be re-screened prior to re-entry.

The use of portable electronic devices within any courtroom, hallway, office, waiting area, or other secured area of the courthouse is prohibited unless expressly authorized pursuant to this policy.