

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WARREN COUNTY

IN RE: PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES IN THE WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

ORDER

It appearing that certain procedures should be required for the orderly, safe and efficient dispatch of business before the courts of Warren County and in all clerks' offices and other public areas of the Courthouse, it is therefore ORDERED as follows:

1. Illegal Substances, Explosive Devices, Weapons and Dangerous Objects

No illegal substances, explosive devices or materials, defensive or offensive weapons, (including but not limited to those items listed in Va. Code Ann. § 18.2-308) or potentially dangerous objects shall be brought into the Courthouse or onto Courthouse grounds. All such objects are subject to seizure and forfeiture. Court security officers and sworn law enforcement officers who are in the Courthouse in the course of their duties are exempted from the prohibition with respect to those items required of such officers in the discharge of their duties. Such Court security officers and sworn law enforcement officers may carry their officially issued weapons into the Courthouse.

2. Search and Seizure

Upon entering the Courthouse, all persons, without exception, shall submit to either an electronic search, a physical "pat down", or both, of his or her person at the request of and in the direction of any Court security officer. All persons, **without exception**, also shall exhibit to such officers the contents of any parcel, handbag, carrying case, or container of whatever nature and such items shall be subject to an electronic and physical search at the request of and in the discretion of any Court security officer. After entry and any initial search as described above, if there

develops an articulable and reasonable suspicion that an item not permitted in the Courthouse is in the possession of an individual or contained in a parcel or any other container, such person or parcel or container also shall be subject of the above-described searches while in any area of the Courthouse.

3. Smoke-Free Building

Smoking and vaping are prohibited in all areas of the Courthouse.

4. Portable Electronic Devices

- A. Definition:** The term "Portable Electronic Device" is defined to include personal computers, tablet computers, mobile telephones (including cell phones and any form of telephone with cameras and audio and video recording and transmission capabilities), electronic calendars, e-book readers, and "smart" watches.
- B. Possession and Use of Portable Electronic Devices:** The following policies and procedures govern the possession and use of Portable Electronic Devices in the courthouse and in the courtroom.

In the Courthouse:

Portable Electronic Devices are allowed in the courthouse subject to security screening, including courthouse screening devices, and the following rules:

- (1) Court visitors may use Portable Electronic Devices in the common areas of the courthouse, such as lobbies and hallways. Further restrictions, including restricting mobile telephone conversations to designated areas, may be imposed as needed to maintain safety, security, proper behavior, order, and the administration of justice. All Portable Electronic Devices must be placed in a silent mode, such as vibrate, at all times within the courthouse.

- (2) Using Portable Electronic Devices to take photographs, make audio or video recordings, or to transmit live audio or video streaming is prohibited except with prior written authorization by a judge of the Circuit or District Court.
- (3) Other Electronic Devices: Cameras, video cameras, video recording equipment and recording devices ("other electronic devices") not classified as Portable Electronic Devices are not allowed in the courthouse except for use at events such as investitures, ceremonies, and weddings. Other electronic devices may be allowed in the courthouse with prior written authorization by a judge of the Circuit or District Court.

In the Courtroom:

Portable Electronic Devices shall not be used in the courtroom without authorization from the presiding judge. Portable Electronic Devices must remain silent at all times. They shall only be used for the purposes and in the manner authorized by the presiding judge. Photography, video recording, audio recording, or video transmission or communication of any information using any media from inside the courtroom is prohibited without prior written authorization of the presiding judge.

Confiscation of Equipment and Ejection of User:

Any person using a Portable Electronic Device in violation of this or any other court order or policy may be removed from the courthouse, found in contempt of court, and subject to penalties as provided by law. Any Portable Electronic Device used in violation of this or any other court order or policy may be confiscated, and the Sheriff shall not be responsible or liable for any damage to or loss of a confiscated device.

Further Limitations by Judges:

A judge may further limit or ban the possession or use of any Portable Electronic Device:

- (1) pursuant to Virginia Code 19.2-266 (to regulate media coverage of judicial proceedings) or
- (2) to maintain safety, security, proper behavior, order, and the administration of justice.

5. Food and Beverages

Food and beverages may not be consumed in the Courtrooms except as may be permitted by the presiding judge.

6. Copies to be Posted

This Order shall be posted on the court's home page on the Virginia Judicial System website; on the court's local website (if any); at the courthouse entrance; and, in the Clerk's Office.


7. Prior Orders

This Order supersedes the prior Orders with respect to such matters.

8. Effective Date

This Order is on July 1, 2026.

ENTERED THIS 1st DAY OF July, 2026



Daryl L. Funk, Judge

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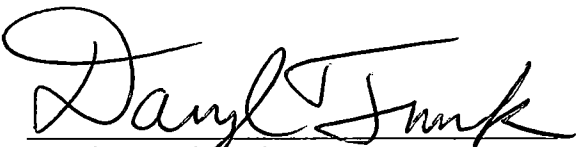
7. Prior Orders

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8. Effective Date

This Order is effective commencing on July 1, 2026.

ENTERED THIS 15th DAY OF July 2026


Daryl L. Funk, Judge