

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF ROANOKE  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF ROANOKE  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF SALEM

ICC:

RoCo Circuit Clerk's Ofc  
Rke City Circuit Clerk's Ofc.  
Salem Circuit Clerk's Ofc.  
RoCo GDC  
Rke City GDC  
Salem GDC/sar  
RoCo JDR  
Rke City JDR  
E. Orange,  
RoCo Sheriff  
A. Hash,  
Rke City Sheriff  
C. Shelor,  
Salem Sheriff  
R.M. Peindexter,  
RoCo Police Chief  
S. Booth,  
Rke City Police Chief  
D. Weeks,  
Salem Police Chief  
Ct. House Bulletin Board  
Roanoke Co. Bar Assoc.  
Roanoke Bar Assoc.  
Sup. Ct. Ex Sec.  
Roanoke Times  
Salem Times Register  
Vinton Messenger  
Roanoke Tribune  
Cardinal News  
WDBJ7  
WSLS  
WSET  
FOX

**STANDING ORDER**  
**REGARDING RULES GOVERNING THE COURT BUILDINGS**

The judges of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit find that the rules set forth below are necessary to properly maintain security, the efficient and safe use, order and decorum in all courtrooms, courthouse facilities and environs within and about the Roanoke County courthouse (including the Juvenile Court building), Roanoke City courthouse and the City of Salem courthouse (collectively referred to as the "Court Buildings"). Accordingly, with the concurrence of the judges of the General District and Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts, and pursuant to the authority conferred by Sections 8.01-4, 16.1-69.35:4 and 17.1-128.2 of the Code of Virginia, it is **ORDERED** as follows:

1. **Security screening.** Before being admitted, all persons seeking admission to any Court Building (hereinafter referred to as "Visitor") shall be subject to a security screen, which may include a personal search, or a search or security screening of personal effects to be brought into any of the Court Buildings.

2. **Use of Portable Electronic Device.** Any Visitor to the court may possess a portable electronic device within the courthouse and certain courtrooms located therein subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

- A. For purposes hereof "portable electronic device shall be deemed to include (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; and (vii) any other electronic personal communication device.
- B. For purposes hereof, "portable electronic device" shall 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.

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- C. (i) The authority to possess and use a portable electronic device in a courtroom is limited to the particular court proceeding in which the Visitor is involved as a party or witness and may be used for purposes deemed proper by the judge presiding over such proceeding, such purposes to include the presentation of evidence deemed relevant or otherwise admissible; provided, however, that such authority may be rescinded at any time at the discretion of the presiding judge; and
- (ii) A Visitor who wishes to use a portable electronic device for the presentation of evidence will be given the means to do so, by delivery to the courtroom by the Sheriff or court personnel, use of a lockable case provided by the Sheriff or other court personnel, or by such other means approved by the Court or the Sheriff.
- D. The authority to possess and use a portable electronic device in the other (non courtroom) publically accessible areas of the court buildings shall be limited to the lobby or other area designated by the Sheriff and use in such areas is permitted only to the extent that it does not interfere with the safe, secure and orderly administration of justice.
- E. Any use of a portable electronic device in the courthouse or courtrooms to take photographs, make audio or video recordings, or transmit live audio or video streaming shall be prohibited without prior written authorization by a judge.
- F. Any portable electronic device possessed or utilized in violation of this ORDER may be confiscated and retained for so long as the Visitor remains in the court building, and, in the event of such confiscation, neither the court nor sheriff's department personnel shall be liable for any damage to or loss of such confiscated portable electronic device.
- G. For purposes hereof a Visitor shall not include, and the restrictions imposed hereby shall not apply to, 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, a probation officer who possesses and presents proper credentials and who is at the courthouse in the conduct of his or her official duties, a state or local government agency employee who possess and presents proper credentials and who is at the courthouse in the conduct of his or her official duties, a court reporter during the course of his or her official duties within the

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reporter during the course of his or her official duties within the courthouse, and any other individual, including media representatives, who have been authorized to possess a portable electronic device in the court upon a determination by the court or sheriff of the city or county in which the court sits to the effect 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 individuals work or business in the court.

H. Any Visitor who has questions regarding the scope or implementation of the provisions hereof is encouraged to seek a written approval from the presiding judge in the circuit, general district or juvenile & domestic relations district court proceeding in which use is contemplated. Any such question or request may be submitted to the clerk of the relevant court.

I. Judges of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit may permit additional exceptions to this order for other circumstances, including ceremonial proceedings such as investitures, adoptions, weddings and graduations from Recovery Court and Specialty Court.

3. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this ORDER, Visitors to the Roanoke City, Roanoke County and Salem City Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts are prohibited from bringing portable electronic devices into the areas of the courthouse occupied by said courts (courtrooms, waiting areas and Clerk's office windows in Roanoke City) and must comply with all other security measures as in effect, to include, but not be limited to, the required placement of such devices in designated lockers or security pouches. Visitors to said courts who wish to present evidence which is contained on a portable electronic device must obtain permission from a judge for the device to be used in the courtroom.

4. **Food or drink.**

- a. Unsealed food or drink items shall not be brought into the Court Buildings by the general public.
- b. Sealed food or drink items brought into the Court Buildings by the general public shall be subject to pre-approval by a sheriff or sheriff's deputy prior to being brought into the Court Buildings.
- c. Food or drink, whether purchased from on-premises vending machines or brought in the Court Buildings, after having first been approved by a sheriff or sheriff's deputy, shall only be possessed or consumed in designated areas. Courthouse employees may

possess or consume such items in areas approved or designated by their supervisors.

- d. No food or drink may be consumed in courtrooms, except water may be made available to litigants, counsel and jurors.

**5. Clothing/Conduct.**

- a. All persons entering the courthouse must dress and all times conduct themselves in a respectful and appropriate manner that is indicative of the dignity of court proceedings.

**6. General provisions for safe and efficient use of Court Buildings.**

- a. All entranceways, corridors and approaches to courtrooms, offices, and other rooms in the Court Buildings, and the exterior grounds appurtenant to Court Buildings shall be kept clear.
- b. No activities that disrupt or have a tendency to interfere with the business of the courts or the persons entering or exiting the court buildings shall be permitted within the Court Buildings or on their adjacent or surrounding grounds.

Any law enforcement officer shall have discretion and authority to enforce this ORDER and any violations hereof shall be addressed by all available legal means or remedies, including, but not limited to, criminal prosecution, contempt or physical removal.

This ORDER supersedes and supplants any prior orders that address issues of conduct and security within the Court Buildings and, including specifically, the Standing Order entered on April 28, 2025 as to all courts within this circuit.

Copies of this Order shall be:

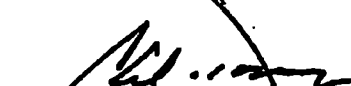
- (i) Spread in the civil order books of each of the courts of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit;
- (ii) conspicuously posted in and around each courthouse;
- (iii) posted on the Virginia Judicial System website and, if applicable, on the website page of each individual court and locality covered hereby; and
- (iv) transmitted to the sheriffs and chiefs of police of each jurisdiction in this circuit, to the presidents of the Roanoke Bar Association and the Salem-Roanoke County Bar Association, to the local news media, the Virginia


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Press Association, the Virginia Association of Broadcasters, and the  
Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

ENTERED: This 29<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026.

  
James R. Swanson, Chief Judge

  
Charles N. Dorsey, Judge

  
David B. Carson, Judge

  
J. Christopher Clemens, Judge

  
Leisa K. Ciaffone, Judge



A COPY TESTE: W. MICHAEL GALLIHER, CLERK  
CIRCUIT COURT, ROANOKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

BY: 

DEPUTY CLERK  
ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATION MADE PURSUANT  
TO §17.1-258.3:2