

**VIRGINIA: IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT AND JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC
RELATIONS COURTS FOR ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AND THE CITY
OF HARRISONBURG**

**STANDING ORDER REGARDING PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN
COURTHOUSE AND COURTROOMS OF THE JUDICIAL CENTER**

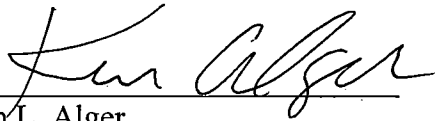
IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that pursuant to Virginia Code Section 16.1-69.35:4, the Court is mandated to establish a policy regarding possession and use of portable electronic devices by members of the public within in the General District and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts and;

IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that such policy shall be applicable only to “visitors to the court” as defined in Virginia Code Section 16.1-69.35:4(A) and does not include any person(s) not falling under such statutory definition, the Court hereby ORDERS that:

- 1) **As to the Public Areas and Clerk’s Offices (excluding the courtrooms) of Judicial Center**, all members of the general public (“visitors to the court”) may possess and use portable electronic devices as of July 1, 2026 however, **the use of any portable electronic device to take photographs, make audio or video recordings, or transmit live audio or video streaming is strictly prohibited**. Upon entry into the courthouse, all portable electronic devices shall be placed in silent mode and shall not make any noises within the courthouse.
- 2) **As to all Courtrooms within the Judicial Center**, all members of the general public (“visitors to the court”) may possess portable electronic devices, as of July 1, 2026, with the following limitations and conditions:
 - A. Prior to entering into any courtroom of the Judicial Center, any such portable electronic devices must be completely turned off. Merely “silencing” or placing the device into “sleep mode” shall not meet the requirement for turning the device off.
 - B. Parties who have evidence contained on their portable electronic device may be given permission to activate and use such device during their court proceeding(s) by the presiding judge. Parties may also be granted permission to use their portable electronic device to record their proceedings pursuant to Virginia Code Section 16.1-69.35:2. Such permission may be granted at any time as deemed necessary or proper by such presiding judge.
 - C. Under no circumstances shall any member of the general public (“visitor to the court”) use a portable electronic device or other device to take photographs, make audio or video recordings, or transmit live audio or video streaming from inside of any courtroom.

- 3) Any person using or possessing a portable electronic device in violation of this Order may be removed from the courthouse, found in contempt of court, and subject to prosecution for other violations of law as may be applicable. A conviction of summary contempt is punishable by a fine of up to \$250.00 or up to ten (10) days of incarceration. Punishment of plenary contempt is punishable by confinement in jail for not more than twelve (12) months and a fine of up to \$2,500.00, either or both. In addition, 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.
- 4) A portable electronic device includes, but is not limited to (i) personal laptops, (ii) tablets, (iii) mobile telephones, including a cell phone and any telephone with a camera, audio and video recording capabilities, and transmission capabilities, (iv) electronic calendars, (v) electronic book readers, (vi) smart watches and (vii) any other electronic personal communication device as contemplated by statute. **All portable electronic devices and other devices are subject to security screening upon entry to the courthouse as the Sheriff may require.**
- 5) This Order supersedes and replaces all previous orders concerning portable electronic devices.
- 6) Pursuant to the statutes, the Clerks shall post this Order setting forth the portable electronic policy in an accessible, prominent, and conspicuous manner at the entrance to the Joint Judicial Center, and on the individual District and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts page on the Virginia Judicial System website or equivalent website where statewide courthouse information is aggregated.

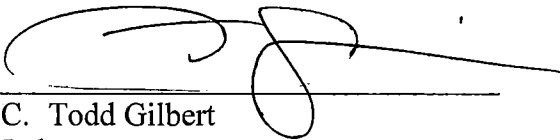
Entered this 1st day of July, 2026.



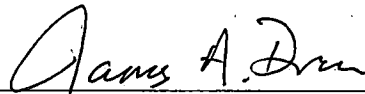
Kenneth L. Alger
Judge



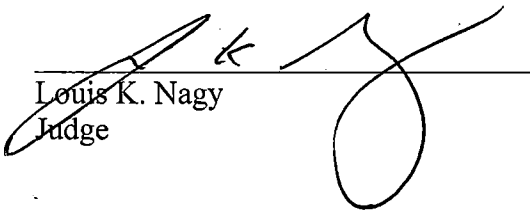
Bryan M. Cave
Judge



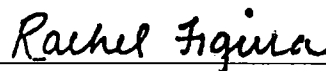
C. Todd Gilbert
Judge



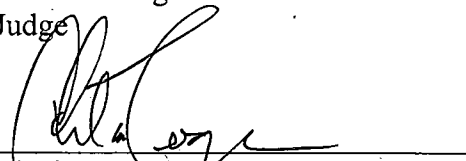
James A. Drown
Judge



Louis K. Nagy
Judge



Rachel E. Figura
Judge



Chad A. Logan
Judge