

# VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT, GENERAL DISTRICT, AND JUVENILE & DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURTS OF ACCOMACK COUNTY

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 16.1 – 69.35:4 and Virginia Code § 17.1-128.2 regarding the use of portable electronic devices in the District and Circuit Courts of Virginia, the Court hereby adopts the following policy:

## 1. Definitions:

*"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.*

## 2. Possession and Use of Portable Electronic Devices

### **A. In the courthouse:**

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

- (1) Visitors to the court may enter the courthouse with a Portable Electronic Device and, upon screening, shall ensure that the Device is powered off and placed in a security storage device.
- (2) Using Portable Electronic Devices to take photographs, to 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 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.

**B. In the Courtroom:**

Portable Electronic Devices shall not be used in the courtroom without authorization from the presiding judge. A presiding judge may authorize the possession and use of Portable Electronic Devices in the courtroom and may impose restrictions on such possession and use. If the possession of Portable Electronic Devices in the courtroom is authorized, they 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.

**C. Confiscation of Equipment and Ejection of User:**

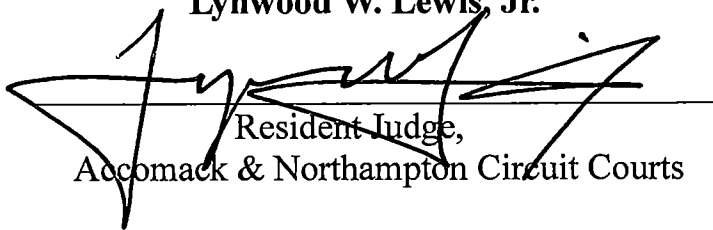
Any Portable Electronic Device used in violation of this Court's Order may be confiscated, and the Sheriff's Office, which is responsible for court security, shall not be liable for any damage to or loss of such confiscated Portable Electronic Device.

**D. Further Limitations by Judges:**

The Court expressly reserves the right and authority under Virginia Code § 16.1-69.35:4 C. and Virginia Code § 17.1-128.2 C. to impose other conditions as needed to maintain safety, security, proper behavior, order, and the administration of justice.

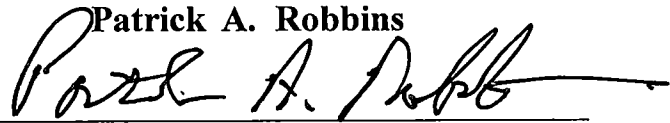
Entered this 1st day of July, 2026,

**Lynwood W. Lewis, Jr.**



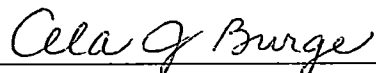
Resident Judge,  
Accomack & Northampton Circuit Courts

**Patrick A. Robbins**



Chief Judge,  
Accomack & Northampton General District Courts

**Cela J. Burge**



Chief Judge,  
Accomack & Northampton Juvenile & Domestic  
Relations Courts