

ORDER AND POLICY FOR THE USE OF PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE COURT

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. Pursuant to Virginia Code § 16.1-69.35:4 and § 17.1-128.2, and upon consideration of competing interests of promoting access to justice and maintaining security, safety and order in the Courtroom, the Court sets forth the following policy regarding the use of Portable Electronic Devices in this Courtroom.

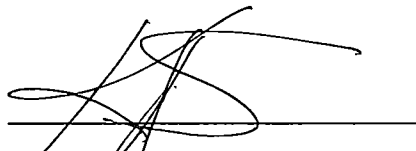
DEFINITION OF "PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE" The term is defined to include personal laptops, tablets, mobile telephones, including cell phones and any telephone with a camera, audio and video recording capabilities and or transmission capabilities; electronic calendars; electronic book readers; smart watches; smart glasses; or any other electronic personal communication device.

POSSESSION AND USE OF PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES The following policies and procedures govern the possession and use of Portable Electronic Devices in the Courtroom.

Portable Electronic Devices shall only be brought into the Courtroom after they are fully powered off and have been inspected by a Deputy showing that they have been fully powered off. They are to remain fully powered off at all times while in the Courtroom unless prior authorization is granted by the Judge and shall comply fully with that specific authorization. Photography, video recording, audio recording or any transmission or communication of any information using any media while inside the courtroom is prohibited without prior written authorization of the presiding Judge. In the event that a presiding Judge authorized the use of a Portable Electronic Device, the device must remain silent at all times and may only be used for the purposes and in the manner authorized by the presiding Judge.

Licensed attorneys or Court reporters with business before the Court are exempted from the requirement of having Portable Electronic Devices powered down. They are, however, required to remain on silent at all times and are not to be used for recording or transmitting any proceedings without prior approval by the presiding Judge.

CONFISCATION OF EQUIPMENT 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 subject to confiscation by the Sheriff and the Sheriff shall not be responsible for any damage to or loss of the confiscated device.



K. Andrew Sneathern, Judge