

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF HANOVER

ORDER

Upon consultation between the judges of the Hanover Circuit Court, the judges of the Hanover General District Court and the judges of the Hanover Juvenile and Domestic Relations General District Court, and pursuant to Va. Code § 16.1-69.35:4, and Va. Code § 17.1-128.2; the following policy for the possession and use of portable electronic devices by visitors in the Hanover County Courthouse (hereafter, the Courthouse) and courtrooms is hereby ORDERED.

Definitions pursuant to Va. Code § 16.1-69.35:4.

“Portable electronic device”

- Is a personal laptop, a tablet, a mobile telephone, including a cellphone and any telephone with a camera, audio and visual recording capabilities, and transmission capabilities; an electronic calendar; an electronic book reader; a smart watch; or any other electronic personal communication device.
- This definition does *not include* a camera, video camera, video or audio recording equipment, or a recording device that is not otherwise a component of a portable electronic device as defined above.

“Visitor”

- Is any 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, 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 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 Hanover County Sheriff that such individual’s possession of a portable electronic device does not pose a security risk or threat and that access to such portable device is necessary for conducting such individual’s work or business in the Courthouse.

Portable Electronic Device Policy in the Courthouse and Courtrooms

- Visitors to the Hanover County Courthouse shall be permitted to bring portable electronic devices into the Courthouse and courtrooms upon the following conditions:
 - i. Visitors must submit their portable electronic devices to security screening upon entry to the Courthouse.
 - ii. Visitors must silence their devices upon entering any courtroom. Devices need not be silenced in the Courthouse lobby or common area.
 - iii. Visitors must abide by the policy guidelines posted at the entrance to the Courthouse and the entrance to the courtrooms.
- Any use of a portable electronic device by visitors in the Courthouse or courtrooms to take photographs, make audio or video recordings, or transmit live audio or video streaming shall be prohibited except with prior written authorization by a Circuit Court Judge, pursuant to Va. Code § 17.1-128.2 (F).
- Any portable electronic device used by visitors in violation of this policy or posted guidelines may be confiscated, pursuant to Va. Code § 17.1-128.2 (E).
- Nothing in this policy shall be construed to permit any Court personnel to search or access any data on the portable electronic device of a visitor to the Court, including during a security screening, pursuant to Va. Code § 17.1-128.2 (C).
- This policy shall be posted in an accessible, prominent, and conspicuous manner at the entrance to the Courthouse and on the Virginia Judicial System website or equivalent website, pursuant to Va. Code § 17.1-128.2 (D).
- The Hanover County Sheriff's office shall be responsible for advising and training all appropriate personnel on this policy, pursuant to Va. Code § 16.1069.35:4 (B).

Visitors to the Offices of the Hanover Circuit Court Clerk and Commonwealth's Attorney

Nothing herein shall prohibit the use of portable electronic devices by visitors within the Offices of the Hanover Circuit Court Clerk and Commonwealth's Attorney, as permitted by those Constitutional Officers.

ENTER: 6/26/26


JUDGE

ENTER: 6/26/26


JUDGE