

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD

**In Re: POLICY REGARDING POSSESSION AND USE OF PORTABLE
ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE STAFFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

ORDER

Pursuant to Virginia Code §17.1-128.2, the Court hereby establishes a uniform policy governing the possession and use of portable electronic devices within the Stafford County Courthouse.

The **possession** of portable electronic devices in the Courtrooms of this Courthouse by visitors, as defined in §16.1-69.35:4, to the Court is restricted as follows:

Visitors to the Court will be required to (i) submit the portable electronic device for a security screening (not to include data on the portable electronic device), upon entrance to the Courthouse; (ii) use the portable electronic device only in specific areas of the Courthouse, including the lobby and hallways; (iii) mobile telephone conversations may only be had in the lobby and hallways; (iv) all portable electronic devices must remain on silent mode at all times; and (v) a portable electronic device may only be used by a visitor to the Court in a Courtroom with the express permission of the presiding judge.

The **use** of portable electronic devices in the Courtrooms of this Courthouse is prohibited, except as follows:

Any portable electronic device brought by a visitor to the Court for the purposes of presenting evidence shall be made available for use by such visitor to the Court during a proceeding. The litigant shall make their request to the presiding Judge, who shall instruct the Deputy Sheriff to screen and permit the device to be brought into the Courtroom.

This policy shall be posted at the entrance of this Courthouse and on (i) the individual Circuit and District Court pages on the Virginia Judicial System website; (ii) the Circuit and District Court Clerk's pages on the Stafford County website.

Any portable electronic device used in violation of this Court's policy or related Court order may be confiscated and the Court or sheriff's office shall not be liable for any damage to or loss of such confiscated portable electronic device.

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 except with prior written authorization by a judge of the Circuit Court.

Entered this 1st day of July 2026:



Michael E. Levy, Circuit Court Judge