

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF CULPEPER

POSSESSION AND USE OF PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES

ORDER

The following policy regarding Possession and Use of Portable Electronic Devices within the Culpeper County Courthouse shall be in effect as of November 1, 2019:

1. Definition of "Portable Electronic Device"

The term "Portable Electronic Device" is defined to include personal computers, tablet computers, mobile telephones (including cell phones and any form of telephone with cameras and audio and video recording and transmission capabilities), electronic calendars, e-book readers, and "smart" watches.

2. Possession and Use of Portable Electronic Devices

Effective November 1, 2019, possession of Portable Electronic Devices within the Culpeper County Courthouse is prohibited, without the express written permission of each individual Court and/or Clerk of such court located within this Courthouse.

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 is prohibited without prior written authorization of the presiding Judge.

3. Confiscation of Equipment and Ejection of User

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 confiscated, and the Sheriff shall not be responsible or liable for any damage to or loss of a confiscated device.

4. Posting Notice of this Policy

The policy of each Court regarding the possession and use of Portable Electronic Devices shall be posted on the Court's home page on the Virginia Judicial System website; on the Court's local website (if any); at the Courthouse entrance; and, in the Clerk's Office of each Court.

5. Storage of Portable Electronic Devices

Storage for the devices shall be provided at the security entrance to the Courthouse for anyone who is not authorized to bring their devices into the Courtroom. Storage of devices may be limited to persons who represent to security personnel that they have no means of storage available to them, such as a vehicle parked on or near the Courthouse premises. The Sheriff shall not be responsible or liable for any damage to or loss of a confiscated device.

ENTER: 
Susan L. Whitlock, Judge

DATE: 10/31/19