

Circuit Court of the Fourth Judicial Circuit

Jasper County, Illinois

Courthouse located at 100 W. Jourdan St., Newton, IL

**LOCAL POLICY/RULE/ORDER REGARDING PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

**(a) Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of this policy is to provide information to the public regarding the permitted and prohibited uses of portable electronic devices in the above mentioned courthouse.

**(b) Definitions**

- (1) "Portable Electronic Devices" are mobile devices capable of electronically storing, accessing, or transmitting information and 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, smartwatches, or similar devices.
- (2) "Court Visitor" means any individual present at a state courthouse in Illinois.
- (3) "Courthouse" includes all areas within the exterior walls of a court building, or if the court does not occupy the entire building, that portion of the building used for the administration and operation of the court. A "courthouse" also includes areas outside a court building where a judge conducts an event concerning a court case.

**(c) Restrictions on Portable Electronic Devices.** The Resident Circuit Judge in Jasper County has determined that allowing portable electronic devices into the above mentioned courthouse interferes with the administration of justice or causes a threat to safety or security, so all portable electronic devices are prohibited from being carried into the courthouse by any court visitor as defined above.

**(d) On-site storage of Portable Electronic Devices.** Since portable electronic devices are prohibited from being carried into the courthouse, the court requests that the device be left at home or work, or in a vehicle, or in another secure place of the court visitor's choosing. There will not be on-site secure storage for any devices. Court visitors that bring devices and leave them at security do so at their own risk. Court security is not responsible for devices left at the security station.

**(e) Confiscation of Equipment and Ejection.** Court visitors using a portable electronic device, or possessing other electronic devices, in violation of this or any other court order or policy may be removed from the courthouse, found in contempt of court, or subject to penalties as provided by law. Any device used in violation of an order may be confiscated and held until the possessor leaves the courthouse. Court personnel shall not be responsible or liable for any damage to or loss of a confiscated device.