

**POLICY ON PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES**  
**MARION COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court has adopted a Policy on Portable Electronic Devices (PEDs);

WHEREAS, said Policy defines PEDs as personal computers, tablet computers, mobile phones, electronic calendars, e-book readers, smartwatches, and similar devices;

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court has adopted a policy that requires each county to adopt a policy regarding the possession and use of PED's in the courthouse that recognizes the use of PED's by individuals in modern society, and

WHEREAS, the following policy complies with that adopted by the Illinois Supreme Court in that it respects the interest and needs of people who enter the courtroom while recognizing and serving the needs to maintain order and safety.

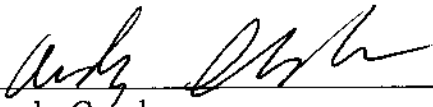
THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Any person may bring PEDs into the Marion County Courthouse. Any person bringing a PED into the Marion County Courthouse must comply with this order.
2. All PED's must be turned off or on "silent mode" while in the courthouse.
3. PEDs may be used in common areas, conference rooms and hallways as long as its use a) does not interfere with operations of courthouse business, b) does not threaten the safety and security of others, and c) is not used to harass any other person or litigant within the courthouse. Headphones must be used to listen to music. PEDs may not be used to photograph or record litigants and/or witnesses without their permission and then only in case preparation.
4. No person may use a PED in a courtroom without permission of the court. The Presiding Judge may allow lawyers, parties, self-represented persons, witnesses, and the press use of a PED to check calendars, present case-related information, take notes, or for some other purpose as authorized by the Presiding Judge.
5. No person shall take photographs, audio or video recordings of court proceedings except as authorized by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 44 or by any Fourth Circuit Administrative Order now in effect or hereafter entered.
6. No person shall use a PED to communicate or attempt to communicate with a potential juror or with any witness at any time while in the courthouse.

7. The county board and the individual office holders control the use of PED's in their respective offices or meetings.
8. If the Chief Judge, Resident Circuit Judge, or Presiding Judge determines that PEDs interfere with the administration of justice or cause a threat to safety or security in the courtrooms, said Judge may prohibit PEDs in a courtroom, common area, courthouse, or a combination of any of those.
9. If an office holder determines that the use of PED's in that office holder's offices interferes with the safe and efficient operation of said office, said office holder may prohibit the use of PED's in his or her offices.
10. If the County Board determines that the use of PED's in its offices, committee meetings or board meetings interfere with the safe and efficient operation of said offices or meetings, the county board or the individual committees may prohibit the use of PED's in said offices or meetings.
11. The clerk shall post a copy of this policy at the door of the courthouse, on each floor of the courthouse and outside each courtroom.

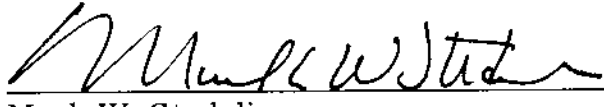
This Order is effective March 15, 2022.

BY ORDER OF THE MARION COUNTY SHERIFF:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andy Garden  
Marion County Sheriff

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Entered: 3/16/22

  
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Mark W. Stedelin  
Marion County Resident Circuit Judge