

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH CIRCUIT
CLAY COUNTY**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2025-1

POLICY ON PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES

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

WHEREAS, said Policy defines PEDs to include 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.

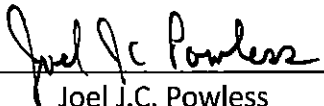
THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Attorneys shall advise their clients, witnesses, and support staff about this Order.
4. 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.
5. The Sheriff has a courthouse policy and controls the use of PED's in the courthouse, common areas or a combination of any of those.

6. 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.
7. No camera, video camera, video recording equipment or other recording devices are allowed in the courtroom except as permitted by the Presiding Judge for ceremonial events such as marriages, investitures, graduations from drug court or as authorized by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 44 or by any Fourth Circuit Administrative Order that may be entered and/or modified from time to time.
8. Anyone violating this Policy may be removed from the courthouse, found in contempt of court, or subject to other penalties or sanction under the law. A PED may be confiscated and held until the possessor leaves the courthouse or until further order of the Court. Courthouse personnel shall not be responsible or liable for any damage to or loss of a confiscated item.
9. This Order is effective September 11, 2025.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Entered: 9/11/2025



Joel J.C. Powless
Clay County Resident Circuit Judge