

# Supreme and Appellate Courts Guidelines for the Possession and Use of Electronic Devices

The following guidelines are subject in all cases to a Justice, Judge, Panel or other judicial authority issuing additional specific orders or guidelines for the use of electronic devices in any appellate proceeding. In addition, the Judicial Branch may confiscate or deny the admittance of any electronic device based on safety and security concerns. Safety and security concerns that may warrant such confiscation or denial include, but are not limited to, previous violation(s) of this policy and/or a determination by the Judicial Branch that an individual intends to violate this policy.

## **A person may have any of the following electronic devices:**

- A cell phone
- A camera *phone*
- A personal computer with or without video or audio recording capabilities
- A digital or tape audio recorder
- A personal digital assistant (PDA) with or without video or audio recording capabilities
- Any other electronic device that can broadcast, record, or take photographs

## **A person may use a cell phone:**

- to make phone calls, e-mails and/or text messages *only, but not in a courtroom*. All cell phones are to be turned off in the courtroom.

## **A person is prohibited from using a cell phone, or any other electronic device to:**

- take pictures
- take videos
- make sound recordings
- broadcast sound
- broadcast still or moving images (video)

## **Violating these guidelines may result in the device being confiscated**

## **Exceptions with the permission of the court:**

- A person may use a personal computer for *note-taking* in the courtroom.
- A person who is appearing before the court may use a personal computer or other electronic device in the courtroom.
- Other electronic devices may be used in the courtroom if permitted by the judge presiding on the panel or other judicial authority

## **Miscellaneous:**

A person may use an electronic device to make an audio recording of a public meeting taking place in a court facility.

These guidelines are not intended to modify in any manner the provisions of Conn. Pr. Bk. Sec. 70-9, Coverage of Court Proceedings by Cameras and Electronic Media, and any court protocol adopted pursuant to subsection (d) of that rule.

These guidelines do not apply to employees of the Judicial Branch who must comply with Judicial Branch policies concerning the possession and use of electronic devices in court facilities.

These guidelines do not restrict in any way the possession or use of electronic devices in court facilities by Justices of the Supreme Court, judges of the Appellate Court, judges of the superior court, judge trial referees, state referees, family support magistrates or family support referees or the authority of such judicial authorities to permit others to use electronic devices in chambers.