

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI

IN RE: Electronic Communication Devices ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: 2019-183
in the Criminal Justice Building –
1305 Locust, Kansas City, Missouri

ORDER

WHEREAS, there have been repeated instances in the courtrooms at the Criminal Justice Center of inappropriate and unlawful use of electronic communication devices, including but not limited to, cellular telephones and related devices; and

WHEREAS, these instances have included, but are not limited to: (1) spectators and litigants in proceedings taking photographs or video of individuals or court personnel in Criminal Justice Center courtrooms and subsequently posting such photographs and videos on social media platforms accessible to the general public; and (2) persons otherwise recording or attempting to record proceedings being conducted in Criminal Justice Center courtrooms; and

WHEREAS, the use of electronic communication devices in this manner violates, among other provisions of Missouri law, Missouri Supreme Court operating rules and Jackson County Local Rules and is, in all other respects, contrary to the best interests of the litigants served by the 16th Circuit's Criminal A Divisions;

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED THAT:

Absent leave granted for good cause by the Judge presiding over any proceeding conducted in any courtroom at the Criminal Justice Center and subject to the exceptions set forth below, no person shall bring an electronic communication device into any courtroom at the Criminal Justice Center. For purposes of this Order, the phrase "electronic communication device" shall include,

but is not limited to, cellular telephones and “smart phones” such as iPhones and similar devices and any accessories thereto, Apple Watches and similar devices, iPads and similar devices, computers, personal digital assistants, digital cameras and video recorders, pagers, two-way radios and any other devices which can be utilized for creating, capturing or recording video or audio images or recordings. All such devices shall be left outside the courtrooms. Criminal Justice Center personnel will not secure such devices or otherwise accept any responsibility for their safekeeping. Persons entering the courtrooms and their personal belongings are subject to screening to ensure their compliance with this Order.

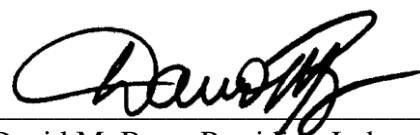
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the provisions of this Order shall not apply to: (1) attorneys and staff in the company of and subject to the direction of such attorneys; (2) employees of probation agencies present in the courtroom for a case called by the Court; (3) employees of the Criminal Justice Center; (4) city, county, state, and federal law enforcement officers; (5) foreign language interpreters present in the courtroom for a case called by the Court; and (6) any other person granted specific permission by the Court for good cause shown. All electronic communication devices permitted within courtrooms pursuant to this Order shall be in silent mode at all times;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any electronic communication device used in violation of this Order shall be subject to immediate confiscation. In addition, in the discretion of the Court, the violator or other responsible party may be subject to expulsion from the courtroom and other sanctions.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

November 12, 2019

Dated



David M. Byrn, Presiding Judge

Copies to:

Presiding Judge
Court Administrator
Judges and Commissioners
Jackson County Prosecutor's Office
Office of the Public Defender
Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association
Eastern Jackson County Bar Association

Angela M. Lopez