

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA

In the Matter of the:)
)
Use of Cameras and Electronic Devices)
in Common Areas of Court Facilities,)
)
_____)

PRESIDING JUDGES' STATEWIDE ORDER ON USE OF CAMERAS AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN COMMON AREAS OF COURT FACILITIES

THIS COURT FINDS AS FOLLOWS:

The court is concerned about the decorum and the protection of persons doing business within the courthouse, including but not limited to customers, jurors, parties, witnesses, and attorneys. The use of cameras and electronic devices is governed by Administrative Rule 50 and Administrative Bulletin No. 45. The presiding judge has authority under Administrative Rule 50 to establish by order procedures or restrictions regarding the use of cameras and electronic devices in court facilities. The purpose of this order is to establish parameters for photographing, filming, and recording within the common areas of the courthouse.¹

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that in the interest of public safety of those at the courthouse for court business, there shall be no photographing, filming, or recording in common areas of the courthouse except as provided below. The courthouse includes all areas within the exterior walls of the building or in buildings with more tenants than the court system, in the space designated at the court section. Common areas include entrances and exits, lobbies, hallways, stairs, elevators, and business offices. This order is not intended to restrict these activities when conducted on court premises outside the entrances and exits to the courthouse, provided the activities do not obstruct access to or from the building, or compromise security. Activities that obstruct access or compromise security will be considered a violation of this order.

¹ This Order supplements Administrative Rule 50 and Administrative Bulletin No. 45 which govern the general use of cameras and electronic devices in court facilities.

Photography, filming, and recording are permitted in common areas inside the courthouse only upon the issuance of an approved TF-945 APPLICATION/APPROVAL - MEDIA COVERAGE form. TF-945 Application Form can be found at <https://public.courts.alaska.gov/web/forms/docs/tf-945.pdf> on the court's website. Completed TF-945 shall be sent to the Media Liaison for the necessary district. Media Liaisons can be found at <https://courts.alaska.gov/media/index.htm#liaisons> on the court's website. All requests shall include: a statement of the intended purpose for recording in common areas, an indication as to the specific common area(s) in which recording is requested, and the desired date(s) and time(s) during which the requestor prefers to make recordings.

Any photography, filming, or recording must be conducted with minimal noise and may not interfere with courthouse business.

Cameras and recording devices, and camera-enabled devices that capture digital images or record sounds, such as cell phones, tablets, watches, may be brought into the courthouse as long as the image capturing and recording features are not activated, used, or displayed, except as otherwise provided in this order. Law enforcement officers with body cameras shall not activate the recording function of the cameras unless involved in a law enforcement activity in the courthouse.

This order is not intended to interfere with or restrict the rights of the media to request permission from a judicial officer to allow media coverage within a particular courtroom, nor to interfere with the ability of each judicial officer to rule on such media requests, consistent with Administrative Rule 50.

The media may seek permission to photograph, film, or record in individual circumstances in a location other than those identified in this order. The requests will be considered and a response provided by the judge presiding over the case that has drawn media attention. Any such requests must be submitted to the appropriate Media Liaison, who will forward requests to the appropriate judge. The judge may grant the request conditioned on the requester complying with the other restrictions in this order

and the procedures outlined by Administrative Rule 50 and Administrative Bulletin No. 45.


Special requests for photographing, filming, or recording in courtrooms, jury rooms, or conference rooms for purposes such as wedding ceremonies, installations, or taking an oath of office must be made to the Clerk of Court. Decisions on those requests will be made by the Area Court Administrator, Administrative Director, or judicial officer presiding over the ceremony or other event.

A violation of this order and/or the Presiding Judge's directive may be the basis for being removed from the courthouse; a contempt order; confiscation of recording equipment, including, but not limited to, cell phones, tablets or other camera-enabled devices and other devices that capture digital images. Confiscated items will be returned upon complying with the order.

This order shall be provided to court employees and security officers and shall be conspicuously posted at entrances to the courthouse, on the Court website, and Court social media accounts and may be conspicuously posted near customer service counters. This order shall be made available to anyone upon request.


IT IS SO ORDERED

Dated at Anchorage, Alaska this 14th day of March, 2023.




Presiding Judge
First Judicial District

Dated at Anchorage, Alaska this 14th day of March, 2023.



Presiding Judge
Second Judicial District

Dated at Anchorage, Alaska this 14th day of March, 2023.



Presiding Judge
Third Judicial District

Dated at Anchorage, Alaska this 14th day of March, 2023.



Presiding Judge
Fourth Judicial District

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