



FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

The Administrative Governing Board of the First Judicial District has adopted a First Judicial District Cell Phone Policy, effective immediately.

THE USE OF ANY ELECTRONIC DEVICE WHILE COURT IS IN SESSION IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT THE COURT'S EXPRESS PERMISSION. ALL CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO SMARTPHONES, TABLETS, LAPTOPS, SMART WATCHES, META GLASSES AND OTHER DEVICES WITH RECORDING OR BROADCASTING AND/OR COMMUNICATION CAPABILITIES MUST BE POWERED OFF AND PUT AWAY. ANY CELL PHONE OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICE THAT IS BROUGHT INTO A COURTROOM AND NOT POWERED OFF AND OUT OF SIGHT MAY BE CONFISCATED BY THE COURT AND TURNED OVER TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR SEARCH.

THE PROHIBITED USE OF AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE MAY RESULT IN SANCTIONS INCLUDING PUNISHMENT FOR CRIMINAL CONTEMPT, EXPULSION FROM THE COURTROOM, AND ARREST AND PROSECUTION UNDER SECTION 5103.1 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CRIMES CODE.

The following Rules will be posted in each Courtroom:

- 1. POWER OFF AND PUT AWAY, OUT OF SIGHT, ALL CELL PHONES OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES (CELL PHONES OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SMARTPHONES, TABLETS, LAPTOPS, SMART WATCHES, META GLASSES, AND OTHER DEVICES WITH RECORDING OR BROADCASTING AND/OR COMMUNICATION CAPABILITIES NOT POWERED OFF AND OUT OF SIGHT MAY BE CONFISCATED, SEARCHED, AND RESULT IN CRIMINAL CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS OR EXPULSION FROM THE COURTROOM. TEXTING, CAPTURING PHOTOGRAPHS, OR RECORDING OR BROADCASTING AUDIO OR VIDEOS WILL BE CRIMINALLY PROSECUTED)**
- 2. NO TALKING WHILE COURT IS IN SESSION**
- 3. CHILDREN WILL BE ADMITTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT**
- 4. NO EATING OR DRINKING IN THE COURTROOM**
- 5. NO CHEWING GUM IN THE COURTROOM**
- 6. NO READING NEWSPAPERS, BOOKS, ETC. IN THE COURTROOM**

DATE: June 18, 2025