

## VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULPEPER COUNTY

IN RE: POSSESSION AND USE OF PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE  
CIRCUIT COURT AND CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE

ORDER

The following is the policy regarding the Possession and Use of Portable Electronic Devices within the Culpeper County Circuit Court and Circuit Court Clerk's Office. The Culpeper General District Court and Clerk's Office and the Culpeper Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and Clerk's Office may have their own policy and procedures for Portable Devices and said Courts should be consulted on their individual policy.

1. Definition of "Portable Electronic Device"

The term "Portable Electronic Device" is defined to include, but not limited to, personal computers, tablet computers, mobile telephones (including cell phones and any other form of telephone with cameras and audio and/or video recording and transmission capabilities), electronic calendars, e-book readers, and "smart watches.

2. Possession and Use of Portable Electronic Devices

Effective the date this Order is entered, possession of Portable Electronic Devices within the Circuit Court Clerk's Office is allowed for the purpose of official business. The device(s) shall not interfere with the operation of the Clerk's Office and the Clerk of Court has the discretion to prohibit any such device(s) as deemed appropriate. No device(s) shall be used to record or photograph any records in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office, including the records room. Copies of any records are subject to the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia including, but not limited to, Virginia Code §§ 17.1-208 and 17.1-275. In the Circuit Courtroom, all Portable Electronic Devices are strictly prohibited without the express written or verbal permission from the Circuit Court Judge presiding in the Courtroom. If certain equipment will be needed for a trial or other hearing, counsel or the party shall notify the Court at least two (2) weeks in advance to receive confirmation or denial of the use of the device(s).

3. Confiscation of Equipment and Ejection of User

Any person using a Portable Electronic Device in violation of this or any other Court Order or Policy or if such device(s) disrupts the Court, they may be removed from the Courthouse, found in contempt of Court, and subject to penalties as provided by law. Any Portable Electronic Device used or discovered in violation of this or any other Court Order or Policy may be confiscated, and the Culpeper County Sheriff and Sheriff's Office shall not be responsible or liable for any damage to or loss of the confiscated device.

4. Posting Notice of this Order

This Order shall be posted on the Culpeper Circuit Court's home page on the Virginia Judicial System website, on the Clerk of Court's website maintained by the County of Culpeper, the entrance of the Courthouse, and on the vault door in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office.

5. Storage of Portable Electronic Devices

Storage of these device(s) may be provided by the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office inside the front door of the Courthouse for those who do not have authorization to possess the device(s) in the Circuit Courtroom. Storage of the device(s) may be limited to persons who represent to security personnel that they have no means of storage available to them, such as a parked vehicle on or near the Courthouse premises and these storage lockers are on a first come, first served basis. The Culpeper County Sheriff and Sheriff's Office shall not be responsible or liable for any damage to or loss of a stored device(s).

This Order supersedes the Order entered on October 31, 2019.

ENTER: Dale Durrer  
DALE B. DURRER, JUDGE

DATE: 7/1/24

Copy provided on 7/1/24 to:  
County of Culpeper for Website Posting  
Office of the Executive Secretary for Website Posting

Posted Outside Courthouse and on Vault Door in Clerk's Office on 7/1/24