

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF FRESNO
CENTRAL DIVISION

USE OF CAMERAS IN THE) GENERAL ORDER
COURTHOUSE)
)
)
)
)
)

No one except authorized court and court security personnel may engage in photographing, recording, or broadcasting, or activate any camera, microphone, recorder or broadcasting device in any courtroom or courthouse in the County where the court conducts business, including all entrances, exits, hallways, escalators, elevators, and adjacent or subterranean court parking areas except as permitted by California Rules of Court, rule 1.150, or as permitted by this order or other order of a judicial officer as set forth herein. This order shall not preclude any law enforcement officer from taking appropriate steps to ensure the orderly and peaceable conduct of court business at a courthouse, including the recording of criminal activity in progress. A law enforcement officer's use of a body camera for passive recording is allowed, provided the camera is set to

1 automatically overwrite data within the timeframe prescribed by
2 the officer's departmental standards.

3 For purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply:

4 Camera - Any device that has a primary function of recording
5 images and is not part of a multifunction device such as a
6 "smartphone." Wearable Electronic Device and Wearable Camera -
7 Any miniature electronic device that is worn under, with, or on
8 top of clothing and having a primary purpose of image capture or
9 recording (such as Google Glass, Go Pro Cameras, Lapel Pin
10 cameras). Personal Electronic Device - Any device capable of
11 communicating, transmitting, receiving, or recording messages,
12 images, sounds, data, or other information by any means including
13 but not limited to a computer, tablet, cell phone, or blue-tooth
14 device. This order applies to the use of any and all Cameras,
15 Wearable Electronic Devices and Wearable Cameras and Personal
16 Electronic Devices as defined above.

17 Except for representatives of media or media agencies as
18 defined in California Rules of Court, rule 1.150(b)(2), no person
19 shall bring into any courthouse a Camera, Wearable Electronic
20 Device, or Wearable Camera as defined above, nor may any person
21 operate a Camera or Personal Electronic Device in violation of
22 this order. To establish whether a person is bringing a camera
23 into the courthouse for the purpose of media coverage security
24 personnel may require that person to either provide a press pass
25 issued by a local law enforcement agency, other verifiable press
26 credentials, or a copy of a current filed petition seeking a court
27 order.

28 ///

1 Personal Electronic Devices may be brought into a court
2 facility but may be used only in accordance with this order and
3 California Rules of Court, rule 1.150. All electronic devices may
4 be inspected by court security personnel.

5 All persons entering any courthouse shall comply with this
6 order, and California Rules of Court, rule 1.150, as follows:

7 While in court, no one may engage in
8 photographing, recording, or broadcasting, or activate
9 any camera, microphone, recorder or broadcasting
10 device, except: 1) in a courtroom where the judge has
11 issued an order allowing media coverage under
12 California Rules of Court, rule 1.150, or expressly
13 granted permission, under California Rules of Court,
14 rule 1.150(d) or otherwise, to photograph, record,
15 and/or broadcast; or 2) outside the courtroom, if it
16 is: i) in a designated media area, or ii) with prior
17 written permission from the Presiding Judge, Assistant
18 Presiding Judge or supervising judge. No one may
19 carry any camera, microphone, or recording equipment,
20 or activate the image or sound capturing feature of
21 any computer, mobile telephone, watch or other similar
22 equipment in a courtroom without express written
23 permission from the appropriate judicial officer.

24 "Court" means the courtroom at issue, the
25 courthouse, and its entrances and exits.

26 This order does not prohibit the use of portable scanners,
27 cameras, or copiers, provided such devices are used solely for the
28 permissive purpose of imaging documents.

 Prior to entering a courtroom, cellular phones, pagers, and
all other electronic communication or recording devices must be
silenced or, in the discretion of the judicial officer, turned
off. No such device shall be handled in any way as to indicate
that a picture, audio or video recording is being taken except in
compliance with this order. Any such device which disrupts the
proceedings shall be subject to confiscation and search. Nothing

1 in this order shall restrict a judicial officer's discretion to
2 regulate the use of such devices in his or her courtroom.

3 This order is for the protection of the public, all parties,
4 and court personnel, and to facilitate the fair and orderly
5 resolution of cases. This order is subject to modification based
6 upon specific circumstances and the discretion of an individual
7 judicial officer in that judicial officer's courtroom, the
8 supervising judge of a division, or the Assistant Presiding Judge
9 in the event of the unavailability of the Presiding Judge.

10 A copy of this order shall be posted on the Court's Web site
11 and shall be made reasonably available or posted near every
12 security entry point into each court building, and at such other
13 locations as the court's Director of Security directs. Violation
14 of this order may result in seizure of the device, monetary
15 sanctions pursuant to section 177.5 of the Code of Civil
16 Procedure, and/or a finding of contempt pursuant to sections 128
17 and 1209 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and/or arrest pursuant to
18 Penal Code sections 166(a)(4), 166(a)(5), and 632.

19 Any court staff, security personnel or peace officer who
20 becomes aware that a person is using a device in violation of this
21 order is directed to advise such individual orally of this order,
22 and take steps to provide the person with a written copy of this
23 order as soon as practical. Security personnel or a peace officer
24 who has reasonable cause to believe a violation of this order has
25 occurred are requested to prepare an incident report, and if the
26 circumstances warrant immediate corrective action because the
27 person persists in violating this order despite being informed of
28 it or has violated the order in a way that appears to have a

1 significant adverse impact upon court security or the fair and
2 orderly resolution of cases, shall take possession of the device
3 and bring the person without unnecessary delay to the courtroom
4 judicial officer, division supervising judge, Assistant Presiding
5 Judge or Presiding Judge. Such judicial officer may take such
6 action or issue such orders to show cause regarding imposition of
7 sanctions or contempt pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure sections
8 128, 177.5, and 1209, and concerning the device, as may be
9 appropriate.

10 Designated media areas are described and depicted in
11 attachment "A" hereto.

12 Effective immediately, this General Order is to remain in
13 effect until otherwise ordered by the Presiding Judge.

14 GOOD CAUSE APPEARING THEREFOR, IT IS SO ORDERED.

15 DATED this 7th day of June, 2018.

16
17 

18 ALAN M. SIMPSON
19 PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

**ATTACHMENT "A"
TO GENERAL ORDER**

Main Courthouse – Breezeway between buildings



B.F. Sisk Courthouse – Front steps – near exit



**ATTACHMENT "A"
TO GENERAL ORDER**

Traffic Courthouse – Front area – East Side



Juvenile Justice Campus – Front steps – Near Sign

