



Media Coverage at the Courts

This is a summary. For details, see [Uniform Trial Court Rule 3.180](#).

Electronic note-taking and recording generally are allowed, but the court needs to *approve in advance*.

Courts have an important duty to balance two fundamental constitutional rights: the right to a free press and the right to a fair trial.

To do this, our courts must consider both the public's right to attend courtroom proceedings and the ways that having media in the courtroom can influence the fairness of a proceeding. We work to foster an environment where, as much as possible, we can protect the safety and privacy of parties, victims, jurors, and witnesses so that they do not fear reprisal for their participation.

We appreciate you taking these concerns seriously and following our rules.

Definitions

Electronic recording:

- Video or audio recording and still photography.
- Includes using a cell phone, tablet, computer, camera, audio recorder, or any other means.

Electronic writing:

- Taking notes or otherwise writing by electronic means.
- Includes, but is not limited to, word processing software, texts, emails, and instant messages.

Electronic transmission:

- Sending electronic recordings or writings.
- Includes, but is not limited to, emails, texts, instant messages, live-streaming, or posting to social media or networking services.

You need **advance** permission from the presiding judge or designee before you:

- Take electronic notes or do other electronic writing in the courtroom.
- Electronically record in the courtroom or other court areas, including hallways and lobbies.
- Transmit electronic recordings or writings from the courtroom, including live-streaming and transferring video files electronically.
- Transmit electronic writing directly and specifically to a witness while remotely observing or participating in a proceeding, unless the witness has been excused by the court.

You need separate permission for each item listed here.

Having permission for recording or electronic writing does NOT automatically give you permission to transmit your recording or writing.

The court may:

- **Limit the number, type, location, and operation of electronic devices.** Generally, a total of one video camera, one still camera, and one audio recorder are allowed.
- **Require pool coverage.** All pooling arrangements are up to the media participants, including arrangements for sharing, verifying technical capabilities, and resolving disputes.
- **Allow you to write or record, but not transmit** (specific permission is required for each).
- **Impose other limits** to preserve decorum or protect jurors, witnesses, or parties.
- **Deny your request** if you cannot demonstrate that you understand this rule.
- **Terminate permissions** if rules are violated or media can't agree on pooling.
- **Have additional rules specifically for their court.** Check with the trial court administrator to learn more.

Recording is *never* allowed for:

- Juvenile cases
- Many family law cases (dissolution, paternity, custody, visitation, support)
- Civil commitment proceedings
- Protective orders (abuse, restraining, stalking orders)
- Voir dire (jury selection)
- Proceedings related to sex crimes, if the victim has requested no recording
- Private conversations or notes (including with judges, attorneys, and clients)
- Jurors in any court area during the course of the juror's trial
- Times when the court is in recess or off the record

Updated: Aug. 1, 2023