

**ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA**

The following policy shall govern the possession and use of electronic devices in all of the United States Courthouses in the Middle District of Georgia:

Prohibited Items

Except as hereinafter specifically authorized, the following items may **not** be brought into the courthouses: mobile phones, tablets, iPads, cameras, laptop computers, smart glasses, or any audio or visual recording or electronic transmitting devices of any type.

Notwithstanding the exceptions hereinafter set out, under no circumstances shall any electronic devices be utilized to photograph, record, broadcast, or transmit judicial proceedings.

Exceptions

1. Judges of this court, law enforcement officers having official business within the courthouse facility, and attorneys and their staff shall be permitted to bring electronic devices into the courthouses, subject to screening by court security personnel.
2. Laptop computers and mobile devices may be utilized during court proceedings, but audible ring tones or notifications must be set to silent.
3. The use of mobile phones in the hallways or conference rooms may be restricted by court security personnel for security reasons, subject to review by a judge of this court.
4. Federal court staff and employees of the General Services Administration shall be permitted to possess mobile phones while in the courthouse, subject to screening by court security personnel.

5. Court security personnel may bar any devices from the courthouse that appear to pose a threat to the security, safety, or integrity of judicial proceedings.

6. Members of the general public, including those summonsed to court as jurors, grand jurors, or witnesses, may **not** bring any electronic devices into the courthouses and shall be directed to leave such devices at home or in their vehicles prior to entering beyond the security screening stations.

7. Specifically excluded from the application of the foregoing policy are offices of other governmental agencies or related agencies (such as the U.S. Postal Service) within such courthouses where the person in charge of that agency has authorized the use of electronic devices within that agency's space.

8. The foregoing policy may be suspended for naturalization or other ceremonial or educational proceedings in the discretion of the Clerk of Court, Chief Deputy Clerk, or any Judge of this Court.

9. Nothing herein shall prohibit the use of electronic devices in the presentation of evidence at any trial or hearing as authorized by the presiding judge.

Violations

Any person found in violation of this policy may be subject to the immediate confiscation of the electronic device by a court security officer or Deputy Marshal. Unless otherwise directed by the presiding judge, any confiscated device shall be returned to the person upon exiting the facility.

This policy shall be effective on November 21, 2025, and supersedes all prior electronic device policies.