

MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PRESS

Members of the press, who present credentials to security personnel showing that they are employees of a news gathering organization, shall be permitted to bring into any courthouse and courtroom the following electronic devices subject to screening by court security personnel: cellular telephones, wireless email devices such as I-Pads, I-Phones, or Blackberry, laptop computers or other personal digital assistants (PDAs).

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL ANY ELECTRONIC DEVICE BE USED TO PHOTOGRAPH, VISUALLY RECORD, OR AUDIBLY RECORD ANTHING INSIDE THE COURTHOUSE, AND NOTHING MAY BE BROADCAST FROM THE COURTROOM. For purposes of this policy, a reporter may electronically transmit the reporter's description of the proceedings via e-mail, "instant messaging," "Twitter," or some other similar electronic message system.

All electronic devices shall be set to a "silent" mode so that no audible sounds are detectable from the device, and the user of such device shall ensure that the use of the device is not otherwise disruptive to the proceedings.

The use of any electronic device may be prohibited by the Judge presiding over the proceeding depending upon the nature of the proceeding and applicable law.

Court security personnel shall notify the presiding Judge when a member of the press is permitted in the Courtroom with an electronic device.

This press policy shall be made an addendum to the "Policy Regarding Electronic Devices in Courthouses of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia" and shall be effective October 28, 2013.