



News Release

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Judiciary Announces New Guidelines for Using Electronic Devices in Court Proceedings

The Judiciary today announced revised guidelines for the use of electronic devices in the courts to be effective Feb. 2, 2015. The new guidelines replace the 2003 edition and were developed to address advances in technology and changes in who reports the news.

Under the new guidelines, all court users who intend to use electronic equipment in the courtroom, from attorneys who use laptops for access their case files to reporters who use equipment to take notes, must sign an agreement that they will adhere to the guidelines for electronic equipment. The agreement is valid for 12 months. Those who violate the agreement could be sanctioned, including, but not limited to, contempt of court.

Aside from that change, the procedure to record, photograph or broadcast a court proceeding remains essentially the same, with a request made to the vicinage for permission, judicial discretion determining that permission must ensure fair proceedings, and exclusions for certain proceedings according to statute and the Rules of Court. The general requirements and responsibilities of the requestor are listed, including pooling requirement, courtroom placement of equipment and other logistics.

The new guidelines reflect the changing definition of news media. Gone are the days of notebooks and sketchbooks used by reporters and courtroom artists. Smart phones and tablets, together with new forms of media, including social media, have altered the ways that news is gathered, reported and shared.

The new [Supreme Court Guidelines on Electronic Devices in the Courtroom](#), the [Agreement for the Use of Electronic Devices](#), and the [Request for Permission to Photograph, Electronically Record or Broadcast a Court Proceeding](#), are available at njcourts.com.

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