



News Release

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Media Alert

Important Reminder about New Supreme Court Guidelines on Electronic Devices Deadline Feb. 2 New Procedure

Effective Feb. 2, reporters who plan to use electronic devices such as laptops, smart phones and tablets to take notes in a courtroom must sign an **“Agreement for the Use of Electronic Devices”** stating that they will adhere to the new guidelines for electronic equipment. The agreement must be presented upon request at any court proceeding. It can be presented electronically or in hard copy.

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. A **“Request for Permission to Photograph, Electronically Record or Broadcast a Court Proceeding”** form is submitted to the vicinage in order to record or broadcast a proceeding. Judicial discretion determines that such permission must ensure fair proceedings. The general requirements and responsibilities of the requestor are listed in the guidelines, including pooling requirements, courtroom placement of equipment and other logistics.

The new guidelines continue the restrictions on photographing, recording or videotaping certain proceeding according to statute and the Rules of Court. They also continue the prohibition on photographing, recording or videotaping in the corridors or other common areas of the courthouse without permission to do so.

Posted under “News & Publications” at njcourts.com are the guidelines, the agreement form, and the form to request permission to photograph, electronically record or broadcast a court proceeding. The special page also has a contact list to email forms and a list of frequently asked questions.

Reporters can submit the agreement to the most convenient courthouse. Only one agreement is needed for all New Jersey courts, including municipal.

Reporters must continue to get permission to record or broadcast individual trials from the appropriate courthouse official.

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