

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

GENERAL ORDER REGARDING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES BY MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

This General Order is hereby issued regarding the use of electronic devices by members of the media, and applies only to proceedings in which the judicial officer has approved a standing exemption to Local Rules 111(b) and 112. The judicial officers that have approved a standing exemption can be found on the Media Resources section of the Court's website and in the attached notice.

Subject to the prohibition against photographing, recording, and video or audio broadcasting, members of the media may bring cellular phones, laptops, and/or other electronic devices into the U.S. Courthouse and the portion of the John O. Pastore Building ("Courthouse") that is occupied by the Court and may use those devices in a courtroom for reporting on those proceedings, including electronic transmissions, if the following directives are met:

1. A **Request for the Use of Electronic Devices Form**, which is available on the Court's website or by clicking [here](#), must be completed and approved. After completing the form, click the e-mail button on the form to submit it to the Clerk's Office via your email provider or email the form to media@rid.uscourts.gov. The Clerk's Office will promptly notify the applicant of action taken on a request. Approved requests are non-transferrable and are valid for as long as the member of the media maintains employment or affiliation with the media organization identified on the form. If there is a change in media organization affiliation, the member of the media must submit a new request.
2. Upon arrival at the Courthouse, those members of the media who have an approved request for the use of electronic devices must present valid picture identification to the court security officers and submit to standard security screening. The identification must match that of the name appearing on the approved list in order to enter the Courthouse with electronic devices. No exceptions will be made.
3. The provisions of LR Gen 111 that prohibit the photographing, recording, and video or audio broadcasting of any proceedings, events or activities in or from any interior portion of the Courthouse remain in effect, and those actions are strictly prohibited.
4. In addition to the prohibition on photographing, recording, and video or audio broadcasting, members of the media will be expected to operate any devices in such a manner as to not interfere with or distract from the proceedings. All devices must be in silent mode with ring tones and other functional sounds disabled. Only quiet keyboards may be used. Please note: there is no Wi-Fi access in the Courthouse.
5. The use of electronic devices is permitted in public areas in the Courthouse and in areas designated for use by members of the media. However, members of the media should not use a device for voice telephone or audible electronic communication in close proximity to a courtroom.

6. Members of the media who have an approved request for the use of electronic devices are authorized pursuant to LR Gen 111(b) to take notes in the courtroom during a proceeding in Court.
7. A presiding judge may always limit the applicability of this standing exemption in any given case. Members of the media with any questions should consult the courtroom deputy prior to the start of the proceeding.
8. Other than those courtrooms presided over by a judicial officer that has adopted the standing exemption, the provisions of Local Rules 111 and 112 remain in full effect as to all other court proceedings. Members of the media must surrender their electronic devices to the court security officer at the entry screening post if they want to enter a courtroom of a judicial officer that has not adopted this standing exemption.
9. Members of the media who violate any of these provisions will be asked to leave the Courthouse. Failure to abide by these rules and practices may result in court sanctions, including the revocation of an approved Request for the Use of Electronic Devices.

January 31, 2014

/s/ William E. Smith, Chief Judge



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
District of Rhode Island

**NOTICE REGARDING THE JUDICIAL OFFICERS WHO HAVE APPROVED
A STANDING EXEMPTION TO LR GEN 111(b) AND 112**

In accordance with the General Order Regarding the Use of Electronic Devices by Members of the Media, the following judicial officers have approved a standing exemption to LR Gen 111(b) and 112:

Chief Judge William E. Smith
Judge John J. McConnell
Magistrate Judge Lincoln D. Almond
Magistrate Judge Patricia A. Sullivan

Further information can be found by visiting the Media Resources section of the Court's website.

December 18, 2014

DAVID A. DIMARZIO
Clerk of Court