CA

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE:	:	18-00006 ~~MD-6-2018~~
POSSESSION AND USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN COURT FACILITIES	:	**ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY**

FILED
LYCOMING COUNTY
2018 AUG -6 PM 3:50

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this 6th day of August 2018, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following policy with regard to the possession and use of cell phones and other electronic devices in court facilities (hereafter referred to as "Electronic Device Policy") was adopted by the Courts of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, (hereafter referred to as "Court") on January 1, 2015, for safety, security, and confidentiality purposes.

The term "electronic device" refers to any device (both currently available and future technology) that is capable of wireless communication and/or the capture, transmittal, storage, and/or retrieval of digitized data, images, and/or sound. "Electronic device" includes but is not limited to cell phones, cameras, tablets, notebook/laptop computers, palm pilots, pocket PCs, blackberries, and pagers.

The term "court facility" refers to the Lycoming County Courthouse at 48 West Third Street, Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and all Lycoming County Magisterial District Judge offices, wherever they may be located.

Electronic devices are banned from every court facility. Any person in possession of an electronic device is prohibited from entering a court facility. Electronic devices will not be stored at a court facility.

The Sheriff of Lycoming County and/or deputy sheriffs and/or anyone tasked with Court security will refuse entry to the Lycoming County Courthouse to any individual in possession of an electronic device unless one of the following exceptions applies.

The following four categories of individuals possessing an electronic device will be permitted entry to a court facility:

1. Employees with proper identification badges – Employees must produce their identification badge upon request, and if they cannot do so, they will be treated as a member of the general public—screened and prohibited from bringing their electronic device into the building.

2. Law enforcement officers conducting business in the court facility – Law enforcement in uniform displaying a badge of authority will be permitted entry with an electronic device. Law enforcement in plain clothes must present a badge of authority in order to be permitted entry with an electronic device.

3. Attorneys who present an approved pass and photo identification will be permitted entry with an electronic device without further screening by Court security.

4. Individuals regularly conducting court-related business in the court facility who present an approved pass and photo identification will be permitted entry with an electronic device but will be subject to full screening by Court security. Prior to being issued a pass, these individuals will be required to identify the purpose of their request and the organization with which they are affiliated.

A judge (common pleas judge or magisterial district judge) or the Office of the District Court Administrator may grant other exceptions in their sole discretion. Anyone who abuses the privilege of entering a court facility with an electronic device is subject to suspension of this privilege and full screening by Court security.

An application for an electronic device pass for attorneys and individuals regularly conducting court-related business are available in the Office of the District Court Administrator on the 4th Floor of the Lycoming County Courthouse and on the website of the Office of the District Court Administrator at http://www.lyco.org/Courts/Court-Administration. Applications and passes are for a specified individual and are not to be shared with other members of the person's firm, agency, or organization.

Individuals permitted entry to the court facility with an electronic device may use their devices while in common areas of the facility, such as the lobbies and waiting areas; however, all electronic devices must be powered off upon entry to a courtroom, hearing room, or judicial chambers. Only with the express permission of the presiding judge or hearing office may an electronic device may be turned on in a courtroom, hearing room, or judicial chambers. Failure to comply may result in the violator's immediate removal from the courtroom, hearing room, or judicial chambers.

No audio recording, video recording, or photograph, may be taken in any court facility at any time. Failure to comply will result in the violator's immediate removal from the court facility and may constitute contempt of court and result in confiscation of the device, the deletion of any offending data or material on such device, and/or the imposition of a fine and/or imprisonment. Any device confiscated pursuant to this order not claimed by its lawful owner within seven (7) business days of such confiscation shall be deemed forfeited to the County of Lycoming.

The Sheriff of Lycoming County, deputy sheriffs, and the court staff of the presiding judge or hearing officer are authorized to enforce this order, including taking immediate possession of any electronic device.

By the Court,

Honorable Nancy L. Butts, President Judge

cc: Nancy L. Butts, President Judge
Marc F. Lovecchio, Judge
Joy Reynolds McCoy, Judge
Eric R. Linhardt, Judge
Mark Lusk, Sheriff
Christian D. Frey, Magisterial District Judge
Jon E. Kemp, Magisterial District Judge
Jerry C. Lepley, Magisterial District Judge
Allen P. Page III, Magisterial District Judge
William C. Solomon, Magisterial District Judge
Gary A. Whiteman, Magisterial District Judge
Adrianne J. Stahl, District Court Administrator
Lycoming Law Association