

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BUCHANAN COUNTY

RE: PROCEDURES UPON ENTRY INTO THE BUCHANAN COURTHOUSE FACILITIES – ALL PERSONS SUBJECT TO SEARCH

ORDER

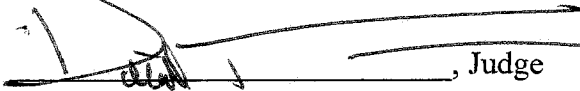
COMES NOW, the Judge of the Circuit Court for Buchanan County and hereby **ORDERS** and **DECREES** pursuant to Section 8.01-4 of the Code of Virginia as amended:

ALL persons seeking entry into the Buchanan County Courthouse building or facilities are subject to a physical search of their person and affects to the extent deemed necessary by the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office Courthouse Security detail for any weapon or explosive device. Places and things to be searched include, but are not limited to: Clothing, Shoes, Handbags, Wheelchairs, Motorized Chairs/Carts, other assistive devices and parcels or packages. This Order supersedes any prior orders concerning these matters.

This Order hereby adopts the attached Policy for Portable Electronic Devices. This policy will be in effect upon entry of this Order and is attached herewith as Addendum A.

Nothing in this Order prohibits or limits the Court's authority concerning District or Circuit Courts from proscribing other rules and regulations concerning policies for entry into those courts.

Entered this Order the 2nd day of MARCH, 2020.


_____, Judge

ADDENDUM A
PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

1. Definition of “Portable Electronic Device”

The term “Portable Electronic Device” is defined to include personal computers, tablet computers, mobile telephones (including cell phones and any form of telephone with cameras and audio and video recording and transmission capabilities), electronic calendars, e-book readers and “smart” watches.

2. Possession and Use of Portable Electronic Devices

The following policies and procedures govern the possession and use of Portable Electronic Devices in the courthouse and in the courtroom.

A. In the Courthouse:

Portable Electronic Devices are allowed in the courthouse subject to security screening, including courthouse screening devices, and the following rules:

- (1) Court visitors may use Portable Electronic Devices in the common areas of the courthouse, such as lobbies and hallways. Further restrictions, including restricting mobile telephone conversations to designated areas, may be imposed as needed to maintain safety, security, proper behavior, order and the administration of justice. All Portable Electronic Devices must be placed in a silent mode, such as vibrate, at all times within the courthouse.
- (2) Using Portable Electronic Devices to take photographs, make audio or video recordings, or to transmit live audio or video streaming is prohibited except with prior written authorization by a Judge of the

Circuit or District Court. It is expressly prohibited to take photographs or recordings of any kind in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office.

- (3) Other Electronic Devices: Cameras, video cameras, video recording equipment and recording devices ("other electronic devices") not classified as Portable Electronic Devices are not allowed in the courthouse except for use at events such as investitures, ceremonies and weddings. Other electronic devices may be allowed in the courthouse with prior written authorization by a Judge of the Circuit or District Court.

B. In the Courtroom:

Portable Electronic Devices shall not be brought into or used in the courtroom without authorization from the presiding Judge. A presiding Judge may authorize the possession and use of Portable Electronic Devices in the courtroom and may impose restrictions on such possession and use. If the possession of Portable Electronic Devices in the courtroom is authorized, they must remain silent at all times. They shall only be used for the purposes and in the manner authorized by the presiding Judge. Photography, video recording, audio recording or video transmission or communication of any information using any media from inside the courtroom is prohibited without prior written authorization of the presiding Judge.

C. Confiscation of Equipment and Ejection of User:

Any person using a Portable Electronic Device in violation of this or any other court order or policy may be removed from the courthouse, found in contempt of court, and subject to penalties as provided by law. Any Portable Electronic Device used in violation of this or any other court order or policy may be confiscated, and the Sheriff shall not be responsible or liable for any damage to or loss of a confiscated device.

D. Further Limitations by Judges:

A Judge may further limit or ban the possession or use of any Portable Electronic Device:

- (1) Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 19.2-266 (to regulate media coverage of judicial proceedings);
- (2) If possession or use of the Portable Electronic Device may or does interfere with the administration of justice or cause any threat to safety or security; or
- (3) For any other reason.

3. Posting Notice of this Policy

The policy of each Court regarding the possession and use of Portable Electronic Devices shall be posted on the Court's home page on the Virginia Judicial System website; on the Court's local website; at the courthouse entrance and in the Clerk's Office.

4. Storage of Portable Electronic Devices

If the possession of Portable Electronic Devices in the courtroom is prohibited or restricted, then storage for the devices shall be provided at the security entrance to the courthouse. Storage of devices is hereby limited to persons who represent to security personnel that they have no other means of storage available to them, such as a vehicle parked on or near the courthouse premises.