

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE:

PROCEDURES REGARDING THE  
POSSESSION AND USE OF CAMERAS  
AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC  
DEVICES BY VISITORS TO FEDERAL  
BUILDINGS AND UNITED STATES  
COURTHOUSES WITHIN THE  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF  
PENNSYLVANIA

STANDING ORDER NO. 2023-20

**STANDING ORDER**

Effective December 1, 2023, the United States Marshal will implement a new procedure to regulate the possession and use of cameras and personal electronic devices having a primary function of wireless communication, including but not limited to cellular telephones, smart phones, laptop computers, recording devices, smart watches, and tablet computers, by all visitors to the William J. Nealon Federal Building and United States Courthouse, the Sylvia H. Rambo United States Courthouse, the Herman T. Schneebeli Federal Building and United States Courthouse, and the Max Rosenn United States Courthouse. This procedure is intended to ensure the personal security and privacy of parties, witnesses, judges, jurors, and counsel involved in court proceedings.

1. All camera and personal electronic devices shall be subject to inspection upon entry to the William J. Nealon Federal Building and United States Courthouse, the Sylvia H. Rambo United States Courthouse, the Herman T. Schneebeli Federal Building and United States Courthouse, and the Max Rosenn United States Courthouse. Such devices may not be used in violation of Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 53 (prohibiting courtroom

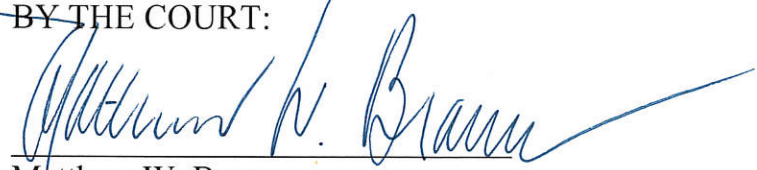
photography and broadcasting in criminal cases) and Local Civil Rule 83.1.1 (prohibiting photographs and broadcasting). The Court may authorize exceptions from this procedure; by way of example for investitures, ceremonial or naturalization proceedings, law school moot court proceedings, or activities sponsored by a bar association for continuing legal education.

2. Subject to the exemptions set forth in Paragraph 4 of this Standing Order, all cameras, cellular telephones, smart phones, smart watches, and similarly sized personal electronic devices shall be turned off in the presence of Court Security Officers upon entry to the courthouse and placed in a locked pouch provided by the United States Marshal. Devices shall remain in the locked pouch in possession of the owner while in the courthouse.
3. The locked pouch may not be intentionally opened, damaged, or tampered with while in the visitor's possession, and it must be returned to the Court Security Officer before leaving the courthouse, at which time the personal electronic device will be returned to the visitor. Intentional damage to, or theft of, the locked pouch will subject the visitor to possible criminal penalties.
4. Unless otherwise ordered by the Chief Judge, or the presiding judge in a specific case, only the following persons shall be exempt from placing their personal electronic devices in a locked pouch:

- a. All attorneys with either a valid bar identification card or credentials of the United States Department of Justice or the Office of the Federal Public Defender;
  - b. Summoned and seated petit or grand jurors, subject to any restrictions imposed by the presiding judge;
  - c. Employees of the Internal Revenue Service and the Office of the United States Trustee with valid identification or documentation;
  - d. Judicial officers, employees of the United States District Court, the United States Bankruptcy Court, or the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and other federal court employees on official business with valid court-issued identification;
  - e. Volunteer law clerks and/or interns for the United States District Court, the United States Bankruptcy Court, or the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit with valid court-issued identification or documentation;
  - f. Law enforcement officials on official business with valid identification or badge;
  - g. Employees of delivery services, courier services, and law firm couriers who frequent the courthouse on official business with valid identification or documentation;
  - h. GSA employees and contractors cleared by GSA or escorted by Court staff.
5. Any person listed as exempt in Paragraph 4 shall comply with the bans on photography, broadcasting, and recording in Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 53 and Local Civil Rule 83.1.1 and shall not allow their cameras or personal electronic devices to be used by others in violation of any law, rule or judicial order.

6. Any person in violation of these rules will have their device confiscated and risks being removed from the courtroom or courthouse at the discretion of the Judge or United States Marshal's Service Court Security Officers.

~~BY THE COURT:~~

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew W. Brann", written over a horizontal line.

Matthew W. Brann  
Chief United States District Judge

Dated: November 6, 2023