

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY**

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2005-04

IN RE: Use of Wireless Communication Devices in Courthouses

There is an ever-growing number of wireless communication devices that have the capability of recording and/or transmitting sound, picture and video. These devices include cell phones, camera phones, PDAs, Blackberrys and laptop communications. These devices may be used in a manner that is undetectable, such as taking photos in the courtroom or recording testimony. This policy limits the unauthorized use of cell phones and other wireless communications in the courtroom. The policy also sets forth guidelines for communication devices brought into our courthouses by attorneys, officers of the court and the general public.

Judicial conference policy states that courtroom proceedings in civil and criminal cases in the district courts may not be broadcast, televised, recorded or photographed for the purpose of public dissemination. This policy is set forth in *The Guide to Judiciary Policies and Procedures*, Vol. 1, Chapter 3, Part E.

Specific exceptions in the Western District of Kentucky's policy, permits the use of cameras and other equipment for ceremonial proceedings, naturalization proceedings and any other district event approved by judicial authority. The judicial official may modify courtroom policy for his or her courtroom during sensitive cases, or special events requiring the use of wireless communication devices.

The Western District of Kentucky's main courthouse is located at 601 W. Broadway, Louisville, Kentucky. The following guidelines apply to all employees, visitors and attorneys while inside the courthouse:

1. Employees and the general public, to include visitors, vendors and all persons having business in the courthouse are permitted to bring wireless communication devices through security screening and into the courthouse.

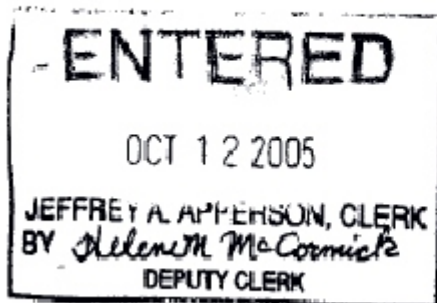
2. No visitor to the courthouse will be permitted to take a wireless communication device into the courtroom areas. Courtroom areas are on the 1st, 2nd and 5th floors. Visitors having business on the 1st, 2nd and 5th floors will leave their wireless communication devices in their vehicle or consult with a CSO for storage. The U.S. Marshals Services will not be responsible for lost or stolen articles. The U.S. Marshals Service will coordinate with district court to post signs regarding this policy.
3. All attorneys having business with the U. S. District Court or the U. S. Bankruptcy Court of the Western District of Kentucky will be permitted to bring wireless communication devices through security screening and into the courthouse. These devices may remain on their person, but MUST remain in the “off” position while on the 1st, 2nd and 5th floors unless previously approved by the judicial official.
4. All officers of the court, judicial staff, law clerks, federal agents and CSOs will be permitted to bring wireless communication devices through security screening and into the courthouse. These devices may remain on their person, but MUST remain in the “off” position while on the 1st, 2nd and 5th floors unless previously approved by the judicial official.

**Western District of Kentucky
Bowling Green, Owensboro and Paducah Courthouses
Policy on Wireless Communication Devices**

1. The general public, to include visitors, vendors and all persons having business in the courthouse are NOT permitted to bring wireless communication devices into the courthouse. Visitors should be encouraged to return these devices to their vehicle or may be temporarily stored with a CSO at the entrance to the courthouse.

2. All attorneys having business with the U. S. District Court or the U. S. Bankruptcy Court of the Western District of Kentucky will be permitted to bring wireless communication devices through security screening and into the courthouse. These devices may remain on their person, but MUST remain in the “off” position while in or near the courtroom unless previously approved by the judicial official.
3. All officers of the court, judicial staff, law clerks, federal agents and CSOs will be permitted to wireless communication devices through security screening and into the courthouse. These devices may remain on their person, but MUST remain in the “off” position while in or near the courtrooms unless previously approved by the judicial official.
4. Specific exceptions in the Western District of Kentucky’s policy, permits the use of cameras and other equipment for ceremonial proceedings, naturalization proceedings and any other district event approved by judicial authority. The judicial official may modify courtroom policy for his or her courtroom during sensitive cases, or special events requiring the use of wireless communication devices.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 12th day of October, 2005.





JOHN G. HEYBURN II, CHIEF JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT