

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

FILED June 8, 2004
Arlen B. Coyle, Clerk

IN RE CELLULAR TELEPHONES AND LAPTOP
COMPUTERS

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MISC. NO. 3:85MC26
3:04MC14

ORDER ADDRESSING POSSESSION OF CELLULAR
TELEPHONES AND LAPTOPS IN FEDERAL COURTHOUSES
IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

The judicial officers of the Northern District of Mississippi, including Article III Judges and Article I United States Magistrate Judges, have conferred among themselves and with judicial officers in the Southern District of Mississippi and hereby adopt the following rules concerning cellular telephones and laptop computers in court facilities in the Northern District of Mississippi, to wit:

1. Attorneys admitted to practice in the federal court will be permitted to retain their cellular phones and/or laptop computers;
2. Members of the court family (district court staff, bankruptcy court staff, probation staff, U. S. Marshal Service staff, U. S. Attorney's staff, AO staff and GSA staff) will be permitted to retain their cellular phones and/or laptops;
3. Persons with specific court authority (building and maintenance tradesmen, auditors, equipment repairmen, vendors, etc.); as identified will be permitted to retain cellular phones and/or laptop computers.

4. No cellular telephone or laptop computer with photographic ability shall be permitted in the courthouse unless accompanied by authorized court staff.

5. All cellular phones shall be placed in the OFF position when in a federal courtroom. Under no circumstances shall telephone calls be initiated or received in a courtroom.

6. It is preferred that jurors not bring cellular phones to jury service. If reasonable and practicable, jurors shall return such devices to their automobiles on the first day of jury service. In the event of inclement weather or other emergencies, it is requested that the court security personnel store juror cellular phones on the first day of jury service but clearly explain to jurors that they are not to return the courthouse with such devices on succeeding days of jury service.

ORDERED this the 7th day of June 2004.

/s/ Glen H. Davidson

Chief Judge