

APPENDIX N Policy on Possession and Use of Electronic Devices in Courthouses

(enacted by General Order 05-19, entered November 4, 2005)

In order to protect the integrity of judicial proceedings, to facilitate the legitimate use of electronic devices, and to comply with the mandates of the Federal Rules of Civil and Criminal Procedure and the Judicial Conference of the United States, the Court adopts this policy on the possession and use of electronic devices in the courthouses of the Eastern District of Texas.

Except as otherwise ordered in writing by a judge of this court, the rules set forth below govern possession and use of electronic devices in the federal courthouses in the Eastern District of Texas.

1. Portable telephones, tape recorders, cameras, laptop computers, handheld devices such as PDAs and Blackberries and other electronic devices are prohibited in Eastern District courthouses, except as mentioned below.
2. Law enforcement officers and attorneys and their staffs are permitted to bring electronic devices, including laptop computers, handheld devices (such as PDAs and Blackberries), and telephones, with or without cameras, into Eastern District courthouses, subject to screening by court security personnel. Portable telephones may be carried inside courtrooms, but must be turned off. Court security personnel may bar from the courthouse any device that appears to pose a threat to security, safety, or the integrity of judicial proceedings.
3. Judicial proceedings may not be recorded, broadcast or transmitted by any means, including still or moving photographs or any type of sound recording.
4. No photographs may be taken, or images or sound captured in any form within Eastern District courthouses absent permission in writing by a judge of this

court.

5. The use of wireless communication devices other than portable telephones within courtrooms is permitted, subject to orders of the presiding judge, including orders pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 615 regarding exclusion of witnesses.

The Marshals Service is directed to adopt procedures implementing this policy, and for posting this notice at the public entrances of the courthouses in this district.