


VENTURA
SUPERIOR COURT
FILED

OCT 19 2018

MICHAEL D. PLANET
Executive Officer and Clerk
BY:  Deputy

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF VENTURA**

**In re: USE OF CAMERAS IN THE
COURTHOUSE**

**GENERAL ORDER
No. 18.12**

No one except authorized court and court security personnel may engage in photographing, recording, or broadcasting, or activate any camera, microphone, recorder or broadcasting device in any courtroom, courthouse or court facility in the County where the court conducts business, including the full entry security screening areas, lobby, courtrooms, judges' chambers, clerk's offices, court offices and the hallways adjacent to these areas, except as permitted by Ventura County Superior Court Local Rules, rule 26 and *California Rules of Court*, rule 1.150, or as permitted by this order or other order of a judicial officer, as set forth herein. Court facilities do not include offices occupied by non-court agencies including the District Attorney's Office and Victim Services Division, the Public Defender's Office or the County Law Library.

For purposes of this order, the following definitions apply: **Camera** - Any device that has a primary function of recording images and is not part of a multifunction device such as a "smartphone." **Wearable Electronic Device and Wearable Camera** -Any miniature electronic device that is worn under, with, or on top of clothing and having a primary purpose of image capture or recording (such as Google Glass, Go Pro Cameras, Lapel Pin cameras). **Personal Electronic Device**-Any device capable of communicating, transmitting, receiving, or recording messages, images, sounds, data, or other

1 information by any means including but not limited to a computer, tablet, cell phone, or blue-tooth
2 device. This order applies to the use of any and all Cameras, Wearable Electronic Devices and
3 Wearable Cameras and Personal Electronic Devices as defined above.

4 Except for representatives of media or media agencies as defined in *California Rules of Court*,
5 rule 1.150(b)(2), no person shall bring into any courthouse a Camera, Wearable Electronic Device, or
6 Wearable Camera as defined above, nor may any person operate a Camera or Personal Electronic
7 Device in violation of Ventura County Superior Court Local Rule 26 and *California Rules of Court*,
8 rule 1.150. To establish whether a person is bringing a camera into the courthouse for the purpose of
9 media coverage, security personnel may require that person to either provide a press pass issued by a
10 local law enforcement agency, other verifiable press credentials, or a copy of a current filed petition
11 seeking a court order pursuant to *California Rules of Court*, rule 1.150 or Local Rule 26.

12 Personal Electronic Devices may be brought into a court facility, but may be used only in
13 accordance with Local Rule 26. All electronic devices may be inspected by court security personnel.

14 All persons entering any courthouse shall comply with Ventura County Superior Court, Local
15 Rule 26.B, which provides, in part:

16 1. No one may use a camera, cell phone camera, video, photographic, audio or
17 other electronic device to transmit, record, or take pictures in any part of the
18 courthouse except as permitted by local rule and California Rules of Court, rule 1.150
19 or upon written approval of the Presiding Judge. For purposes of this rule, court
20 facilities include the full entry security screening areas, lobby, courtrooms, judges'
21 chambers, clerk's offices, court offices and the hallways adjacent to these areas. Court
22 facilities do not include offices occupied by non-court agencies including the District
23 Attorney's Office and Victim Services Division, the Public Defender's Office or the
24 County Law Library.

25 2. The use of a camera, cell phone camera, video, photographic or other
26 electronic device is not permitted in any jury assembly area, or juror deliberation
27 room. In addition, photographing, videotaping, filming or electronic recording of
28 anyone wearing a juror badge anywhere inside of the courthouse is prohibited.

1 3. Photographing, videotaping, filming or electronic recording of anyone
2 involved in any case, including litigants, witnesses and spectators anywhere inside of
3 the courthouse is prohibited, except as permitted by local rule and *California Rules of*
4 *Court*, rule 1.150 or upon written approval of the Presiding Judge. Unless the court
5 orders otherwise, this rule does not prohibit photography or recording of ceremonial
6 events held by the court, a governmental agency or bar association, mock trial
7 competitions, weddings, adoptions or a lecture or training that is held in a courtroom
8 when court is not in session, as long as persons who are prohibited from being
9 photographed in this rule are not photographed.

10 Prior to entering a courtroom, cell phones, pagers, and all other electronic communication or
11 recording devices, not specifically authorized by the judge officer presiding over the proceedings, must
12 be silenced or, in the discretion of the judicial officer, turned off. No such device shall be handled in
13 any way as to indicate that a picture, audio or video recording is being taken except in compliance with
14 Local Rule 26 and *California Rules of Court*, rule 1.150. Any such device, which disrupts the
15 proceedings, shall be subject to confiscation and search by the bailiffs. Nothing in this order shall
16 restrict a judicial officer's discretion to regulate the use of such devices in his or her courtroom. This
17 order does not prohibit the use of portable scanners, provided such devices are used solely for the
18 permissive purpose of imaging documents and is not a scanning application on a personal electronic
19 device.

20 This order is for the protection of the public, all parties, and court personnel, and to facilitate the
21 fair and orderly resolution of cases. This order is subject to modification based upon specific
22 circumstances and the discretion of an individual judicial officer in that judicial officer's courtroom, the
23 Presiding Judge or the Assistant Presiding Judge in the event of the unavailability of the Presiding
24 Judge and the supervising judge of the Juvenile Courthouse.

25 A copy of this order shall be posted on the Court's Web site and shall be made reasonably
26 available or posted near every security entry point into each court building, and other locations
27 conducting court business. Violation of this order may result in seizure of the device and/or search as
28 permitted by law. Further, any person who violates this order and/or Local Rule 26, may be subject to

1 monetary sanctions under *Code of Civil Procedure* §177.5, *California Rules of Court*, rule 1.150(f)
2 and/or a finding of contempt under *Code of Civil Procedure* §§128 and 1209 and/or arrest under *Penal*
3 *Code* §§166(a)(4), 166(a)(5), and 632.

4 Any court staff, security personnel or peace officer who becomes aware that a person is using a
5 device in violation of this order is directed to advise such individual orally of this order, and take steps
6 to provide the person with a written copy of this order, as soon as practical and report the incident to
7 Ventura County Sheriff Court Services. Ventura County Sheriff personnel or any other law
8 enforcement officer who has reasonable cause to believe a violation of this order has occurred are
9 requested to prepare an incident report, and if the circumstances warrant immediate corrective action
10 because the person persists in violating this order despite being informed of it or has violated the order
11 in a way that appears to have a significant adverse impact upon court security or the fair and orderly
12 resolution of cases, shall take possession of the device and bring the person without unnecessary delay
13 to the courtroom judicial officer, supervising judge, Assistant Presiding Judge or Presiding Judge, as
14 may be appropriate, to determine if there is sufficient cause to believe there has been a violation of this
15 order without good cause or substantial justification. Such judicial officer may take such action or
16 issue such orders to show cause regarding imposition of sanctions or contempt pursuant to *Code of*
17 *Civil Procedure* §§ 128, 177.5, and 1209 and/or *California Rules of Court*, rule 1.150(f), as may be
18 appropriate.

19 Effective immediately, this order is to remain in effect, until otherwise ordered by the Presiding
20 Judge.

21 General Order 18.11 is set aside and vacated by this order.

22 GOOD CAUSE APPEARING THEREFOR, IT IS SO ORDERED.

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24 Dated: October 19, 2018.

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27 PATRICIA M. MURPHY
28 Presiding Judge