

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
LASALLE, BUREAU AND GRUNDY COUNTIES LA SALLE COUNTY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 24-49

PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

FILED

OCT 15 2024

C. Vaccaro
CIRCUIT CLERK

FILED

Administrative Order 22-5 is hereby rescinded and replaced with this Administrative Order.

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court's Policy on Portable Electronic Devices as of January 2022 requires judicial circuits to implement a portable electronic devices policy regarding the public's ability to bring their portable electronic devices into the courthouse; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit has determined that portable electronic devices interfere with the administration of justice and are likely to cause a threat to the safety and security of employees, defendants, jurors and witnesses, and has determined that possession of portable electric devices should be prohibited by court visitors in said courthouses except for certain exceptions listed below.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that, effective immediately, the following procedures are in effect in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit:

1) Purpose and Scope.

The purpose of this Administrative Order is to provide guidance regarding the public's ability to bring their portable electronic devices into the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Courts. This Administrative Order seeks to respect the interests and needs of the people who enter the courthouses and courtrooms of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit while recognizing and serving the need to maintain order and safety.

2) Definitions.

- a) "Portable electronic devices" are mobile devices capable of electronically storing, accessing, or transmitting information and is defined to include personal computers, tablet computers, mobile telephones (including cell phones and any form of telephone with cameras and audio and video recording and transmission capabilities), electronic calendars, or similar devices.
- b) "Court visitor" means any individual present at the courthouse in LaSalle, Bureau or Grundy Counties, other than county officials and employees, licensed attorneys and their employees, law enforcement officers and jurors.

3) Portable Electronic Device Policy.

The use of portable electric devices by court visitors are prohibited in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit courthouses unless authorized pursuant to one of the below exceptions:

- 1) As authorized by the Sheriff in courthouse facilities other than courtrooms;
- 2) As authorized by the Judge presiding in the courtroom in question; or

- 3) As authorized by a member of the Court's staff, including the Circuit Clerk, in order for the court visitor to discreetly attend to court business; or
- 4) Members of the Media, including as permitted pursuant to court order under the Supreme Court's Extended Media Coverage Policy.

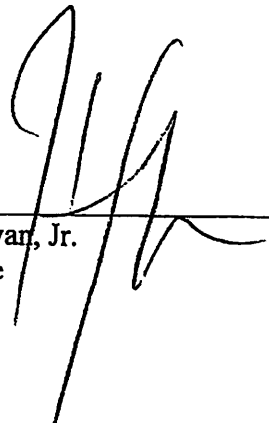
4) Violation of this Policy.

Court visitors using a portable electronic device, or possessing other electronic devices, in violation of this or any other Court Order or policy, may be removed from court facilities, found in contempt of court, or subject to penalties as provided by law.

5) Storage for Portable Electronic Devices.

The courthouse will provide a limited number of locked storage units for portable electronic devices, at no cost to the court visitor, at the security entrance for persons who desire to store their portable electronic devices in a secure location until they depart the courthouse and who represent to courthouse security personnel that the court visitor has no other means of storage available such as a parked vehicle at or near the courthouse premises.

Dated: 10/15/24



H. Chris Ryan, Jr.
Chief Judge

Distribution:

LaSalle, Bureau and Grundy County Circuit Clerks
All Judges of the 13th Judicial Circuit
LaSalle, Bureau and Grundy County Sheriffs
LaSalle, Bureau and Grundy County Board Chairmen
LaSalle, Bureau and Grundy County State's Attorneys
LaSalle, Bureau and Grundy County Elected Officials and Department Heads
Presidents of LaSalle, Bureau and Grundy County Bar Associations for distribution to members