

NORTH CAROLINA
ALAMANCE COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR RESIDENT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE
AND CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
15-A JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN RE:)
)
CELL PHONES AND OTHER) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
PERSONAL COMMUNICATION)
DEVICES IN COURTHOUSES)

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the undersigned that the need for enhanced court security requires this Order restricting the use of cell phones and other personal communication devices having the capability to take photographs and to record persons, such as witnesses, jurors and attorneys, and having the capability to record proceedings in violation of Rule 15, General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts, issued by the North Carolina Supreme Court pursuant to N.C.Gen. Stat. 7A-34; that certain such devices or devices similar in appearance have the capability to injure or incapacitate; and that it is in the interests of justice, safety and order, that action be taken to reduce the risk that such devices are used in a manner as to endanger others and disrupt court proceedings;

IT IS ORDERED that cell phones and other personal communication devices are prohibited in the Alamance County Courthouses. If any unauthorized person does gain entry into any courtroom with such device, he or she shall be subject to the contempt powers of the court, and the device is subject to confiscation until the presiding judge decides it may be returned.

The following persons are exempted from this prohibition:

1. An individual who displays a current identification card issued by Alamance County authorizing entry to the courthouse.
2. An attorney who displays a current North Carolina State Bar identification card.
3. An individual, such as a litigant having evidence stored on such a device will need to present his/her device to the courthouse security personnel who will place it in an evidence bag for use in court. The evidence bag containing the device will be placed in the custody of the bailiff for the particular courtroom and will remain there until the case is tried or continued. The bailiff will escort the person out when his/her case is concluded that day and they will receive the device back when they leave the court building.
4. A Federal, State and local law enforcement or probation and parole officer who displays his or her credentials as such.

5. An individual who displays a current jury summons and who is entering in response to such summons.
6. A judge, commissioner, deputy commissioner or other official of a governmental agency entering the courthouse for the purpose of conducting court or on official business and who displays his or her credentials as such.
7. A member of the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court.
8. All staff members of the Offices of the Superior and District Court Judges.
9. All staff members of the Alamance County District Attorney's Office.

A limited number of lockers will be provided in the courthouses where electronic devices may be stored at the owner's/possessor's own risk and the county and court officials will not be responsible for any lost or stolen items.

Nothing herein is to be construed to limit the authority of a judge to control the courtroom in which such judge is presiding.

This Order is issued the ____ day of _____, 2019 and is effective June 1, 2019.

D. Thomas Lambeth, Jr.
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge

Bradley Reid Allen, Sr.
Chief District Court Judge