

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BRUNSWICK
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 15B

FILED IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

2025 JAN 29 A 9:48

25-R-19

BRUNSWICK CO., C.S.C.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

RE: CELL PHONES AND OTHER PERSONAL COMPUTER DEVICES IN COURTHOUSE

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the undersigned that the need for individuals to have access to personal computer devices will be necessary as the North Carolina Judicial System moves to digital filing in Brunswick County beginning February 3, 2025. Neither the general public nor private bar will have access to paper filings or court files EXCEPT through the eCourts digital Odyssey system. This system will be accessible through most any electronic device with internet and/or cellular connection.

BASED UPON the principle that all files are public and that all individuals have a legal right to view and access their file, this Court enters this Order regarding the use of personal computer devices inside the Brunswick County Courthouse.

IT IS ORDERED that the prior order banning cell phones from the Brunswick County Courthouse is hereby rescinded. It is further **ORDERED** that the following devices are permitted in the Brunswick County Courthouse while being used to conduct court business:

- a) Cell phones
- b) Smart phones
- c) Laptop computers
- d) Tablet computers
- e) All other electronic devices capable of connecting to the internet for the purpose of accessing court files

Although these devices are permitted inside the Brunswick County Courthouse, it is expressly ORDERED that prior to entry into ANY COURTROOM, ALL CELL PHONES and/or SMART PHONES are to be TURNED OFF and stored away. Failure to comply with this directive and order is grounds for CONTEMPT OF COURT and could subject you to punishment of up to 30 days in the county jail.

The following persons are exempt from this prohibition:

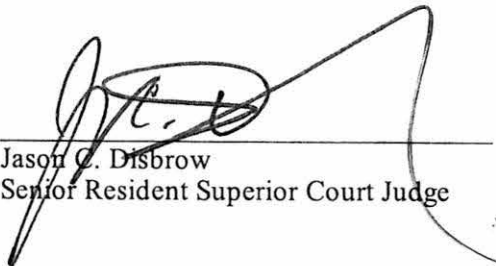
1. An individual who displays a current identification card issued by Brunswick County authorized to enter the courthouse.
2. Any individual that utilizes their personal cellular device for medical purposes (i.e. diabetes purposes, hearing impaired devices, etc.). **Said individual shall notify the court staff about the need to utilize their cellular device for this purpose.**
3. An attorney who displays a current North Carolina State Bar identification card.
4. An individual, such as a litigant having evidence stored on such a device, will need to gain permission from the presiding judge prior to utilizing the device inside the courtroom, and then only during such time as the individual's hearing is being conducted.
5. A Federal, State and/or local law enforcement or probation/parole officer who displays his or her credential as such.

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 Brunswick County District Attorney's Office and the Brunswick County Public Defender's Office.
10. This Order shall become effective February 3, 2025. A copy of this Order shall be posted on the front door of all facilities applicable to this Order as well as outside all applicable courtrooms.

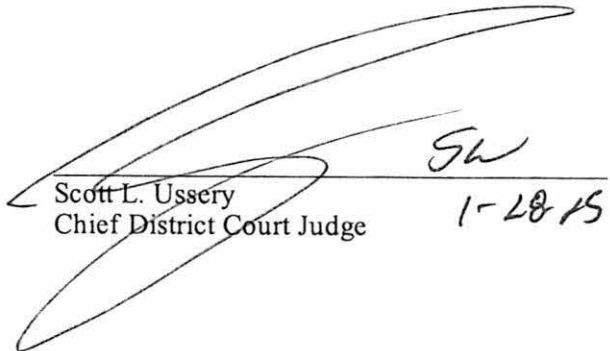
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all audio and/or video recording is **EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED** on any electronic device inside any **COURTROOM** without the express permission of the presiding judge. Failure to comply with this provision is grounds for **CONTEMPT OF COURT** and could subject you to punishment of up to 30 days in the county jail.

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 29th day of January 2025 and is effective February 3, 2025.



Jason C. Disbrow
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge



Scott L. Ussery
Chief District Court Judge

SW
1-28-15

