

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA BY: F. Cromwell IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

COUNTY OF FORSYTH

SUPERIOR AND DISTRICT  
COURT DIVISIONS

IN RE: )  
)  
CELL PHONES AND OTHER )  
ELECTRONIC DEVICES )  
IN COURTHOUSE )

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
(Electronic Devices)

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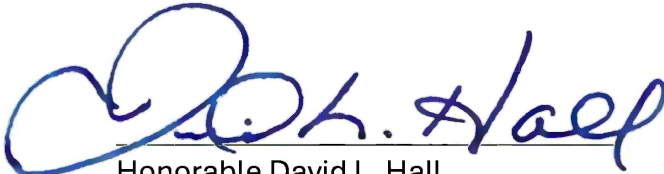
The undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge for Judicial District 31 enter this Administrative Order regarding the possession and use of cell phones and other electronic devices within the Forsyth County Courthouse.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The possession and/or use of cellular telephones (cell phones) “Smart Phones”, computers, electronic tablets, cameras, “Smart Watches”, “Smart Glasses,” and any other electronic device capable of recording or transmitting sound or images will be prohibited in the Forsyth County Courthouse effective November 10, 2025. The only exceptions to this Order are set forth in Paragraph 2, as follows:
2. This Order shall not apply to “Authorized Persons.” Authorized Persons are defined as follows:
  - a. Courthouse staff (defined specifically on Addendum A);
  - b. Judges of the Superior and District Courts, of a governmental agency entering the courthouse for the purpose of conducting court or an official hearing, and who displays his or her credentials.
  - c. Licensed and practicing attorneys;
  - d. Federal, State or local (NC) law enforcement officers while in the performance of their official duties, to include Probation, Parole and officers employed with the Division of Adult Corrections;
  - e. Employees of the WS/FC Schools and Forsyth County Board of Education, while in the performance of their official duties;
  - f. State, County and City employees while in the courthouse for the performance of their official duties (including contractors doing work in the courthouse who have been vetted by State or local government, including contracted/visiting court reporters), upon production of valid identification;
  - g. Expert witnesses retained by parties to criminal or civil litigation, while in the courthouse pursuant to their retained witness testimony or duties;
  - h. Prospective and Empaneled Jurors while in the performance of their roles as jurors (upon production of a valid Juror Summons or Badge);

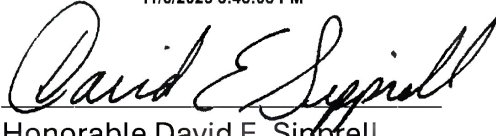
- i. Bail bondsmen, upon production of a current and valid Department of Insurance Bondsman identification card, and while on the premises for official duties;
  - j. Veterans Treatment Court Volunteers;
  - k. Guardian Ad Litem Volunteers;
  - l. All State, County and local elected officials while in the performance of their official duties;
  - m. Persons who use their devices to monitor any health-related issue(s) upon approval by the Trial Court Administrator, and
  - n. Employees of the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts.
3. Any *pro se* litigant or party to a case may seek authorization of the presiding judge to bring a restricted electronic device into the courtroom if necessary for court business. The elected clerk or designee may authorize the same for matters appearing before him/her staff. If authorization is given, then courthouse security shall permit such persons to bring the approved device in the courtroom.
4. The use by any person, **including “Authorized Person”**, of television, motion picture, video, recorder, audio recorder or still photography cameras, or any device capable of recording or transmitting sound or images in any hearing or trial is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Presiding Judge. Request for authorization should be made a reasonable time in advance of the trial or hearing as to not cause a delay in the court's business. The Presiding Judge's authority is limited by and must conform to the provision of Rule 15 of the Superior and District Court Rules.
5. Purpose and Background. The ability to present evidence including audio and video evidence is fundamental to our system of justice. Nothing in this Order shall prohibit any party from presenting evidence upon notice to the Presiding Judge. Prohibiting the intimidation of witnesses and jurors is essential to the proper and fair administration of justice.
6. The purpose of this Order is to prevent the recording and dissemination of images of jurors, witnesses, undercover officers, child victims, and court personnel, in order that each such person is able to perform his or her duties without threat of intimidation or unlawful repercussion. Such conduct threatens the integrity of the judicial process, endangers lives, and intimidates those serving as witnesses and jurors. Restrictions on the use of electronic devices in courthouses are now commonplace in State and Federal courthouses, including the Supreme Court of the United States. This Order seeks to balance these security concerns with the recognition of the important needs of individuals to have access to important means of communication.
7. This Order shall become effective upon signing.

ENTERED, this the 6th day of November 2025, and will go into effect November 10, 2025.



Honorable David L. Hall  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge

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Honorable David E. Sippell  
Chief District Court Judge