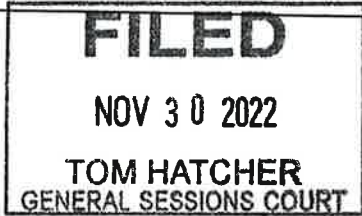


IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, THE CHANCERY COURT, AND THE
GENERAL SESSIONS COURT FOR BLOUNT COUNTY, TENNESSEE

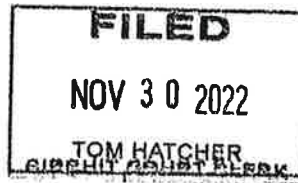
IN RE:

THE USE OF PORTABLE
ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE
BLOUNT COUNTY JUSTICE
CENTER AND ALL COURTROOMS)

) CIRCUIT COURT DOCKET NO. L-21111
)
) CHANCERY COURT DOCKET NO. 2022-CH-108
)
) GENERAL SESSIONS COURT
DOCKET NO. CV-40114



ORDER



FILED
BLOUNT COUNTY

NOV 30 2022
1:24p CB
STEPHEN S. OGLE
CLERK AND MASTER

1. Definition of "Portable Electronic Device"

The term "Portable Electronic Device" is defined to include personal computers, tablets, computers, mobile telephones (including cell phones and any form of telephone with cameras and audio and video recording and transmission capabilities), electronic calendars, e-book readers and "smart" watches.

2. Possession and Use of Portable Electronic Devices

The following policies and procedures govern the possession and use of Portable Electronic Devices in the Blount County Justice Center and in all courtrooms.

A. In the Blount County Justice Center:

Portable Electronic Devices are allowed in the Blount County Justice Center subject to security screening, including Blount County Justice Center screening devices, and the following rules:

(1) Blount County Justice Center visitors may use Portable Electronic Devices in the common areas of the first floor Blount County Justice Center, such as lobbies and hallways. Further restrictions, including restricting mobile telephone conversations to designated areas, may be imposed as needed to maintain safety, security, proper behavior, order and the administration of justice. All Portable Electronic Devices must be placed in a silent mode, such as vibrate, at all times within the Blount County Justice Center.

(2) To ensure the safety and security of litigants, witnesses, jurors, Blount County Justice Center employees, and in the furtherance of fair and unimpeded administration of justice, using Portable Electronic Devices to take photographs, make audio or video recordings or to transmit

live audio or video streaming on all floors of the Blount County Justice Center is prohibited, except with prior written authorization by a judge of the Circuit or General Sessions Court.

(3) Other Electronic Devices: Cameras, video cameras, video recording equipment and recording devices ("other electronic devices") not classified as Portable Electronic Devices are not allowed in the Blount County Justice Center. Other electronic devices may be allowed in the Blount County Justice Center with prior written authorization by a judge of the Circuit or General Sessions Court.

B. In the Courtrooms:

Portable Electronic Devices shall not be brought into or used in the courtrooms without authorization from the judge presiding over the proceedings. A judge may authorize the possession and use of Portable Electronic Devices in the courtroom and may impose restrictions on such possession and use. Attorneys, clerks, court officers, probation officers and other persons deemed to be necessary to court proceedings may possess Portable Electronic Devices subject to the limitations herein. If the possession of Portable Electronic Devices in the courtroom is authorized, they must remain silent at all times. They shall only be used for the purposes and in the manner authorized by the judge. Photography, video recording, audio recording or video transmission or communication of any information using any media from inside the courtroom is prohibited without prior written authorization of the judge, pursuant to Rule 30 of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

C. Confiscation of Equipment and Ejection of User:

Any person using a Portable Electronic Device in violation of this or any other court order or policy may be removed from the Blount County Justice Center, found in contempt of court and subject to penalties as provided by law. Any Portable Electronic Device used in violation of this or any other court order or policy may be temporarily confiscated and returned to the owner at a time deemed appropriate by the court, and the Sheriff shall not be responsible or liable for any damage to or loss of a confiscated device.

D. Further Limitations by Judges:

A judge may further limit or ban the possession or use of any Portable Electronic Device:

- (1) Pursuant to Rule 30 of the Tennessee Supreme Court (to regulate media coverage of judicial proceedings);
- (2) If possession or use of the Portable Electronic Device may or does interfere with the administration of justice or cause any threat to safety or security or
- (3) For any other reason.

3. Posting Notice of this Policy


The policy of each court regarding the possession and use of Portable Electronic Devices shall be posted on the Blount County Sheriff's Office website; on the court's local website (if

any); at the Blount County Justice Center entrance; near the entry door of each courtroom; and in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office.

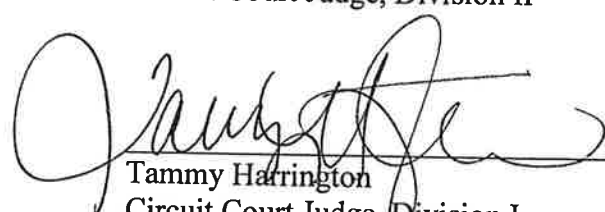
4. Storage of Portable Electronic Devices.

If the possession of Portable Electronic Devices in the courtrooms is prohibited or restricted, then storage for the devices shall not be provided by the Blount County Justice Center for anyone who is not allowed to bring their devices into the Blount County Justice Center and/or courtrooms.

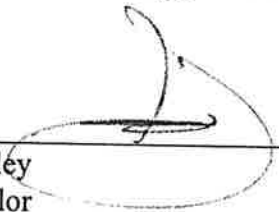
IT IS ORDERED this the 30TH day of November, 2022.



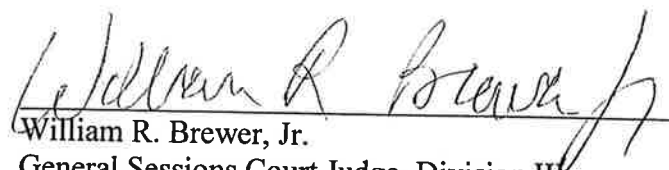
David R. Duggan
Circuit Court Judge, Division II



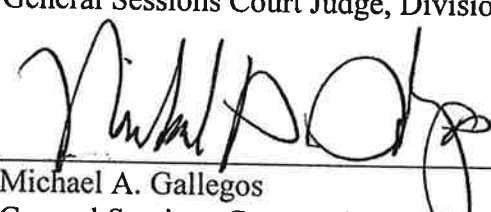
Tammy Harrington
Circuit Court Judge, Division I



Jim Ripley
Chancellor



William R. Brewer, Jr.
General Sessions Court Judge, Division III



Michael A. Gallegos
General Sessions Court Judge, Division I



Robert L. Headrick
General Sessions Court Judge, Division IV