

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT OF THE COUNTY OF CHESTERFIELD

cm18-7-31

**IN RE: RULES GOVERNING THE COURTS BUILDING AT 9500 COURTHOUSE ROAD AND
THE HISTORIC 1917 COURTHOUSE AT 10011 IRON BRIDGE ROAD, CHESTERFIELD,
VIRGINIA**

The Court is of the opinion that the rules set forth below are necessary to properly maintain safety and decorum in all offices, courtrooms and environs within the Courts Building at 9500 Courthouse Road and at the 1917 Chesterfield County Courthouse ("the Courts Buildings"). Accordingly, pursuant to *Code of Virginia* § 8.01-4, it is ORDERED as follows:

1. All persons seeking admission to the Courts Buildings shall be screened by magnetometer and, if requested to do so by the Sheriff, Sheriff deputies, or Sheriff civilian security staff, shall submit to a personal search before being admitted.
2. No firearms or weapons of any kind shall be brought into the Courts Buildings. The prohibition shall not apply to any law enforcement officer when any such person is in the Courthouse for the lawful performance of official duties and also displays identification satisfactory to staff of the courthouse.
3. Visitors to the Courts Buildings shall not bring cameras, television, radio, or sound equipment, including tape recorders, into the buildings except as otherwise provided by law and or by written Order of this Court or the Chesterfield General District Court. Court reporters, in the performance of their official duties, may bring into the Courts Buildings the usual and necessary recording equipment. Licensed attorneys who display a current Virginia State Bar card may bring into the Courts Buildings a laptop computer or other device to project or display DVD or other video or audio recordings, if such video or audio recordings are necessary for a court proceeding. No photographs, still or otherwise, shall be taken of jurors entering or leaving the Courts Buildings.
4. Visitors to the Courts Buildings shall not bring cellular or wireless telephones, personal digital assistants (PDA's), pagers, or other similar technological communication devices into the Courts Buildings, except as provided herein.
 - a. Licensed attorneys who display a current Virginia State Bar card may bring such devices into the Courts Buildings. However, any attorney who has such a device in his or her possession must silence the ringer or set it to vibrate while inside the Courts Buildings. The attorney must completely turn off all telephone and pager functions while in any courtroom.
 - b. All law enforcement officers when any such person is in the Courthouse for lawful performance of official duties and also displays identification satisfactory to staff of the courthouse may bring such devices into the Courts Buildings. However, any such official who has such a device in his or her possession must silence the ringer or set it to vibrate while inside the Courts Buildings. The official must completely turn off all telephone and pager functions while in any courtroom.
 - c. Jury Commissioners, when entering the Courts Buildings for the purpose of performing the duties of a jury commissioner may bring such devices into the Courts Buildings. However, any jury commissioner who has such a device in his or her possession must silence the ringer or set it to vibrate while inside the

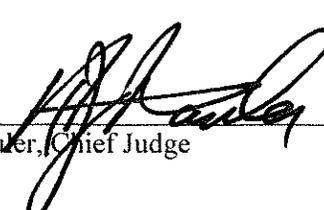
Courts Buildings. The jury commissioner must completely turn off all telephone and pager functions while in any courtroom. No one shall be permitted to make any video or audio recordings within the Courts Buildings.

- d. Authorized representatives of the news media possessing valid credentials shall be allowed to possess laptop computers, cell phones, and other electronic communication devices. News media representatives shall be allowed to use any devices only in the areas of the courts buildings designated by the Sheriff. Devices shall not be used in the courtrooms at any time nor may such devices be used for the purpose of taking still photographs or for making either audio or visual recordings within the courts building. Any media representative with such a device in his or her possession must silence the ringer or set it to vibrate while inside the courts building.
 - e. Foreign language interpreters recognized by the court while in performance of their duties.
5. All entranceways, corridors, and approaches to courtrooms, offices, and other rooms in the Courts Buildings shall be kept clear for the purpose of free access thereto by those employed therein, or those who have business to transact in the Courts Buildings, subject to security measures undertaken by the Sheriff and his deputies with the approval of the Court.
 6. The courtroom security deputies shall monitor courtroom ingress and egress at all times. Prior to the opening of Court, the public shall be admitted to each courtroom at the discretion and under the supervision of the courtroom bailiffs. After the public is seated and counsel are in place, the bailiff shall notify the Judge and formally convene the Court session.
 7. All activities within the courtrooms and common areas of the Courts Buildings shall be consistent with the decorum required of legal proceedings. No activities that disrupt or have a tendency to disrupt the business of the courts shall be allowed within the Courts Buildings or on their exterior grounds.
 8. The area of each courtroom within the rail is reserved for the defendant, counsel, members of the Bar, and Court personnel. No one else will enter without permission of the Court.
 9. Items received as evidence shall be handled only by Court personnel. Attorneys, witnesses, and jurors may handle evidence only by leave of Court.
 10. The Court reserves the right to designate seating accommodations within each courtroom.
 11. Smoking and "vaping" are prohibited within the Courts Buildings.

Nothing in these rules is intended to preclude the formulations or application of more restrictive rules regarding criminal trials in these Courts Buildings. This Order supersedes any previous orders inconsistent herewith.

ENTER:

2 / 26 / 2018



T.J. Hauer, Chief Judge