## VIRGINIA: IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

IN RE: COURTROOM SECURITY

## **ORDER**

All persons entering the courtrooms and clerks' offices of the General District Court shall comply with all applicable orders entered by the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court pertaining to courthouse and courtroom security.

Specifically, laptop computers, tablets, cellular telephones (with or without camera capabilities) or other electronic or personal communication devices are not permitted in the courtrooms of the General District Court while such courtrooms are in session except by those persons authorized to have such equipment in the courthouse pursuant to orders entered by the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court. Those person who are authorized to possess such equipment in the courthouse may not use such equipment in the courtrooms of the General District Court except for (1) attorneys and (2) police officers, sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, law enforcement agents or officials, probation officers and magistrates possessing proper credentials while in the conduct of their official duties. The use of such equipment by said authorized persons is limited to text messaging, email messaging, legal research and presentation of evidence except as authorized by the General District Court. All such equipment shall be operated in silent mode unless authorized by the General District Court. Persons who are otherwise not authorized to possess such equipment in the courthouse may, with permission of the Court, have such equipment brought by the Sheriff or a Deputy Sheriff to a courtroom of the General District Court for use at any hearing or trial.

No cameras or recording devices are permitted in the courtrooms of the General District Court except as authorized by the Court.

No food or liquids of any kind are permitted in the courtrooms of the General District Court except as authorized by the Court.

A willful violation of this Order may be punished as a contempt of court.

All prior orders of this Court pertaining to matters covered by this order are hereby rescinded.

Entered this 26/lbf May 2020.

Daniel R. Lahne, Chief Judge