

# LOCAL RULES OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURTS FOR THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS OF IOWA

Effective January 1, 2006

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N.D. Administrative Order Number 09 - AO - 0006-P

S.D. Administrative Order Number 09 - AO - 0002-P

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**LR 83.4 AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING, RADIO, TELEVISION, PHOTOGRAPHY, COMMUNICATION DEVICES, AND COMPUTERS**

**a. Prohibited Activities.** The following activities are prohibited in the courtroom and its environs, whether or not the court is in session:

1. Audio recording;
2. Filming or video recording;
3. Radio or television broadcasting;
4. The taking of photographs;
5. The use of the photographic capabilities of a cell phone;
6. The use of any electronic device to record or transmit anything from the courtroom or its environs, including visual images, testimony, or data; and
7. The use of a noise-producing electronic device, unless the device is necessary for a person's health or welfare (for example, a breathing device or a motorized wheelchair).

The court may make exceptions to these prohibitions for ceremonial proceedings and educational seminars.

**b. Computers, Cell Phones, and Other Portable Communication Devices.**

1. In the Northern District, computers, cell phones, and other portable communication devices are not permitted in courtrooms or their environs unless specifically authorized by an administrative order or other order of the court. If a computer, cell phone, or other portable communication device is permitted in a courtroom or its environs by an administrative order or other order of the court, it must be disabled from making an audible sound while in the courtroom or its environs.

2. In the Southern District, laptop and hand-held computers, cell phones, and other portable communication devices are permitted in courtrooms and their environs, subject to the provisions of any applicable administrative order or other order of the court. Use of a cell phone or other portable commu-

nication device in courtrooms is prohibited, but such use is permitted in courtroom environs in a manner which does not interfere with judicial proceedings. Computers may be used in a courtroom in a manner that does not interfere with judicial proceedings. Computers, cell phones, and other portable communication devices must be disabled from making an audible sound while court is in session. No computer, cell phone, or other portable communication device may be used for any activity prohibited in section “a” of this rule.

**c. Environs Defined.** For purposes of this rule, the environs include all rooms, passageways, and stairways in a courthouse, but do not include the private offices of the United States Attorney, the Federal Public Defender, the United States Probation Office, or any other government agency or organization not part of the judiciary. In any other building where a judicial proceeding of the district court is being conducted or where court personnel or jurors are located, the environs include all rooms in the building being used for such purposes and all areas immediately adjacent to those rooms.

**d. Judicial Proceeding Defined.** As used in this rule, a judicial proceeding means any trial, hearing, or other proceeding in a civil or criminal case or a grand jury session.

**e. Exception for Court Personnel and Court Reporters.** This rule does not apply to court personnel or court reporters acting on behalf of the court and within the scope of their duties. (*See, e.g.*, LR 83.7; LCrR 28.c and 57.2.)