



U.S. DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF KANSAS

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Cameras in Courts

The District of Kansas is among fourteen United States District Courts selected to participate in a three year [Digital Video Recording Pilot](#) project, to study the effect of cameras in the courtroom, on the public, on parties and counsel, jurors, judges, and the institution of federal courts. During the pilot, civil bench and jury trials, as well as civil motions hearings will be recorded by local court personnel and published to a website where they will be available for viewing or download by parties, counsel, and the general public. Several courts have already recorded proceedings, which you can view [HERE](#).

Civil trials and hearings will be recorded, but only with the consent of all parties in that hearing or trial. A party may consent to recording of a particular hearing in their case, but not consent to recording of other proceedings in that same case. Even with full party consent, the presiding judge has the discretion to not record proceedings or testimony in a trial or hearing, in the interests of privacy or to protect sensitive matter. Similarly, the presiding judge has the discretion to not publish all or part of a trial or hearing that has been recorded. And, while witnesses cannot veto a recording, if a witness has expressed a desire to not be recorded, that should be brought to the attention of the presiding judge who can decide after conferring with the parties whether to record that witness or provide other appropriate relief. Parties and counsel will be able to access the recordings, through a link to the [uscourts.gov](#) website, typically within hours of the recorded testimony. While the recordings will not serve as the official record, having quick access to video recordings of testimony will undoubtedly benefit litigants and counsel.

We encourage those of you who have civil trials or hearings during the three year term of the pilot to participate by consenting to the recording of proceedings in which you represent parties. While there may be particular witness testimony that is of concern, these issues can be raised with the Court and addressed, whether by not recording any of the proceeding, or by selectively recording parts of the proceeding.

Criminal proceedings will not be recorded under any circumstance. Magistrate Judges and Bankruptcy Judges are not participating in the pilot. In Kansas, the District Judges who are participating are Judges [Vratil](#), [Marten](#), [Murguia](#), [Robinson](#) and [Melgren](#). Among those participating are judges who generally favor the concept of cameras in the courtroom, as well as judges who generally disfavor the concept of cameras in the courtroom.

Forms:

[Request to Exempt Witness\(es\) From Video Recording](#)

[Party Response to Request for Video Recording](#)

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