

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

**Court Policy Memorandum** (Administrative) #C.10.8

June 16, 2008

**TO:** Judges and Commissioners  
Executive Officer

**FROM:** Richard T. Fields, Presiding Judge

**SUBJECT:** Cellular Phones, Pagers, and other Electronic Devices in the Courtrooms

**APPLICABILITY:** Countywide

**REFERENCE:** California Rule of Court 1.150  
Countywide Judges Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2002

**SUPERCEDES:** Court Policy Memorandum dated May 13, 2002

A. Definitions

1. As used in this policy:

- a. "Photographing" means recording a likeness, regardless of the method used, including by digital or photographic methods. Photographing does not include drawings or sketchings of court proceedings.
- b. "Recording" means the use of any analog or digital device to hear or visually preserve court proceedings. Recording does not include handwritten notes on the court record, whether by court reporter or by digital or analog preservation.
- c. "Broadcasting" means a visual or audio transmission or signal of the court proceedings, including any electronic transmission or transmission by sound waves.
- d. "Court" means the courtroom at issue, courthouse and its entrances and exits.

B. It shall be the policy of this court that all individuals entering courtrooms are required to do as follows:

1. Cellular Phones, Pagers, and Other Electronic Devices that Emit Sounds in the Courtrooms

All individuals entering courtrooms are required to turn off or set to a silent signal, all electronic devices emitting sounds that may interrupt court proceedings. This includes cellular phones, pagers, hand held computers, radios, compact disc players and other electronic devices.

- a. Signage will be consistent countywide and displayed at the entrance of each facility indicating this policy in English and Spanish.
- b. Deputies will be asked to remind individuals entering the courthouse of this policy while passing through security, and to remind individuals in the courtrooms.
- c. Noncompliance may result in temporary or permanent removal of the offending device from the person.

2. Photographing, Recording, and Broadcasting Prohibited

All individuals entering the court shall not photograph, record or broadcast court proceedings except as permitted by the court. The court may photograph or videotape sessions for judicial education or publications. This policy does not apply to closed-circuit television broadcasts used within the courthouse or between court facilities if the broadcasts are controlled by the court and court personnel.

3. Personal Recording Devices

A judicial officer may allow personal recording devices to be used by persons in a courtroom to make sound recordings as personal notes of the proceedings. A person proposing to use a recording device must obtain advance permission from the judicial officer prior to using the recording device in the courtroom. The recording shall only be used for personal notes.

4. Sanctions

Any violation of this policy is an unlawful interference with the court proceedings and may be the basis for a citation for contempt of court or an order imposing monetary or other sanctions as provided by law.

Effective: Immediately

/s/  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard T. Fields  
Presiding Judge

Drafter Notes

2

Amending the May 13, 2002, CPM is necessary in order to reflect the following:

1. Incorporate the language from California Rule of Court, Rule 1.150 that addresses photographing, recording and broadcasting a court proceeding into the court's policy to be consistent with the California Rules of Court.
2. Update the CPM to utilize the latest technology available to the public.