



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Photographing, Recording, and Broadcasting in the Courtroom Overview of California Rule of Court 1.150

1. Commonly Asked Questions	Refer to Rule 1.150 section:
<p>What is the scope of Rule 1.150? Rule 1.150 covers photographing, recording, and broadcasting in the courtroom using any television, radio, photographic, or recording equipment. Such equipment can include: personal recording devices, microphones, still cameras, and television cameras.</p>	N/A
<p>Does Rule 1.150 create a presumption for or against the media? No, the introduction to the rule specifically states that the rule does not create a presumption either way.</p>	1.150(a)
<p>When is media coverage allowed or not allowed? The rule specifically forbids media coverage of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceedings held in chambers; • Jury selection; • Jurors or spectators; • A conference between attorneys; • A conference between counsel and the judge at the bench (“sidebars”); • Conferences between an attorney and a client, a witness, or an aide; and • All other proceedings closed to the public. <p>Judges are to use their discretion over the use of media coverage in other areas, including all pretrial hearings in criminal cases.</p>	1.150(e)(6)
<p>What constitutes a “conference” between an attorney and a client or an attorney and an aide? Rule 1.150 does not define the term “conference.” Judges are encouraged to use their discretion.</p>	N/A

<p>Are there any exceptions to Rule 1.150? Yes, there are two exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courts may photograph or videotape sessions for judicial education or publication. • The rule does not apply to closed-circuit television broadcasts solely within the courthouse or between court facilities if the broadcasts are controlled by the court and court personnel. 	1.150(c)
<p>What about the use of personal recording devices? The judge may permit use of personal tape recorders, for note-taking purposes. The judge's permission must be obtained in advance. Previously, it was required that the person inform the court in advance.</p>	1.150(d)
<p>How does the court establish jurisdiction over all requesting media agencies? Judges may utilize the order on the media request to establish such jurisdiction.</p>	N/A
<p>What are the media's general responsibilities to the court?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To initiate the process to gain access by completing and filing Forms MC-500 and MC-510 with the court; • To ensure that all of their personnel who cover the proceeding know and follow the provisions of the 1.150 order and Rule 1.150. The media has the burden to ensure that whoever represents them knows the rules; • To preserve the dignity of the courtroom by abiding by personnel and equipment limitations; and • To pay increased court-incurred costs, if assessed. 	1.150(e)(7)

<p>2. Procedural Steps for Rule 1.150</p>
<p>Step 1. Media agency decides that it would like to access court proceedings.</p>
<p>Step 2. Media agency files Forms MC-500 an MC-510 with the court.</p>
<p>Step 3. Clerk of the court promptly notifies the parties to the proceeding that a request has been filed.</p>
<p>Step 4. Determination made regarding authority to make the order.</p>

Step 5. Notice to parties regarding hearing on the request. Trial judges do not have to give a prescribed form of notice within a specific number of days; however, by requiring that parties are informed of the request and making their views a factor in the exercise of discretion, Rule 1.150 clearly contemplates they will be informed of any hearing and have a reasonable opportunity to participate.

Step 6. Judge may hold a hearing on the request, though a hearing is not required.

Step 7. Judge issues ruling:

- Considers 19 factors laid out by rule 1.150;
- Findings or statement of decision not required;
- May incorporate local rules.

Step 8. Media agencies file statement of pooling arrangements with the court.

Step 9. Modification or termination of the order.