



18th Judicial District
Arapahoe County Combined Courts

Media Plan and Guidance
The People of the State of Colorado v. James Toliver Craig
July 2025

Trial Information

18th Judicial District
7325 S. Potomac St.
Centennial, CO 80112
Case Number, Charge(s)
2023CR664, Homicide

Media Contact Information

Media Contact
Amy Woodward, Media Coordinator
720-550-1194 (call or text) amy.woodward@judicial.state.co.us

Court Contact Information (includes records requests from media)

Jenni Turnidge
18th JD Court Executive
(303) 961-0541
jenni.turnidge@judicial.state.co.us

Media Access

Interviews

Judges, court staff, and jurors may not discuss active cases. Jurors may not be interviewed while the case is ongoing.

For interviews with victims' family members, please contact the Arapahoe District Attorney's Office:

Eric Ross, Public Information Officer 720-874-8556
Arapahoe County District Attorney's Office: eross@arapahoegov.com



18th Judicial District Arapahoe County Combined Courts

Courthouse security

Members of the public and media must pass through a metal detector and security screening by court security officers.

Closed sessions

Certain proceedings are always closed to the public and media. Jury deliberations and attorney-client meetings will occur in private.

Media On-site

Credentialed Media

Press should be prepared to show credentials from a recognized media outlet on-site. Those that need credentialing will be issued according to the State Court Administrator's Office credentialing process. The Colorado Judicial Branch's Chief Communications Officer, Suzanne Karrer, will administer the media credentialing process. All requests for credentials must be made to suzanne.karrer@judicial.state.co.us. The person requesting a media credential must be prepared to present credentials identifying the person as a member of a recognized media organization.

Courtroom access

The court proceedings are open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. Up to five seats will be reserved for credential media on a first-come, first-served basis. Media outlets are limited to one representative in the courtroom.

The following proceedings will be available on Webex livestreaming at live.coloradojudicial.gov for viewing outside the courtroom – Opening statements, Closing statements, and Jury Verdict.

There will not be a dedicated media room.

Off-limit areas

Journalists should not cross from the public gallery into the well of the courtroom, which is marked by a short rail. Journalists should obey posted restrictions posted throughout the courthouse. Members of the media shall not block entrances or public rights of way.



18th Judicial District Arapahoe County Combined Courts

Recording and Broadcasting

Expanded Media Coverage (EMC) requests

The judge has issued an EMC order that will allow audio recording for portions of the trial; Openings, Closings and Verdict. The court will not allow audio or video recording, screenshots, or photos of any Webex court proceeding.

Livestream

The court will not be utilizing any additional livestreaming platforms, other than Webex, throughout the proceedings.

Electronic Devices and Decorum Order

Decorum Order

The judge has issued an expanded media order as well as a decorum order, which outlines the court rules of conduct and guidelines designed to govern the expectations of the people involved in the trial and those observing the trial so that the decorum of an open court will be maintained throughout the proceedings. All members of the public and media must comply with any requests issued by the Sheriff's Department in regard to courtroom security.

Electronic Device Usage

Within the Decorum Order, the judge *will allow* the use of personal digital assistants (PDA's), laptops, tablets and notebooks in the courtroom with wireless capabilities as long as it creates no disruption during the course of any court proceeding. Audio streaming, photographs, digital recording and voice phone service from the courtroom are strictly banned.

Pursuant to Chief Judge Order 23-12 Concerning Electronic Devices in Judicial Buildings and Probation Offices in the 18th Judicial District, media with valid media credentials are permitted to use their cameras in the hallways and public areas of the courthouse. However, CJO 23-12 permits the Chief Judge to limit the use of cameras or other recording devices to designated areas. The undersigned has conferred with the Chief Judge and the Chief Judge will permit cameras in the hallways and public areas of the courthouse, except cameras or recording devices shall only be permitted on the second floor of courthouse 1 of the Arapahoe County Justice Center inside the specifically cordoned off areas designated for media.



18th Judicial District Arapahoe County Combined Courts

Order of Privacy and Protection

The parties and the Court have gone to great lengths to protect the privacy of the minor children involved in this matter. This includes limiting the use of or striking the names of said minors during hearings and court documents. The Court orders the media to maintain this order of privacy and protection regarding the children of the victim and the defendant. Should the media hear testimony, argument or other proceedings which use the names of the children, the media shall not disclose said names in any releases whether written or oral. Any video or audio recordings obtained during Openings, Closings or Verdict shall be subject to this order as well and will require redaction prior to use or dissemination.

Key Trial Point Announcements

Jury Seating, Opening Statements, Closing Statements and Verdict Announcements

The Colorado Judicial Branch will provide updates via text message group chat. To join the group, contact Amy Woodward at amy.woodward@judicial.state.co.us and provide your phone number to be added to the text group.

Jurors

During the trial, the media is directed that no photograph or record of the jurors is allowed, including the juror entrance/exit from the courthouse.

The media shall make no attempt to contact or question prospective or empaneled jurors until the Court has discharged the juror.

To ensure prospective and empaneled jurors do not overhear media interviews, press interview locations will be restricted to the designated areas in the attached map.

Arapahoe County District Court, State of Colorado 7325 S. Potomac Street Centennial, CO 80112	<p style="text-align: center;">DATE FILED June 18, 2025 9:49 AM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲</p>
Plaintiff(s): THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO v. JAMES CRAIG Defendant:	
	Case No. 23CR664 Division: 22/308
ORDER RE: REQUEST FOR EXPANDED MEDIA COVERAGE	

THIS MATTER comes before the Court for consideration of numerous requests for expanded media coverage of the jury trial set to begin in this matter on July 14, 2025. The Court has reviewed the motions and rules as follows:

Standards for Authorizing Coverage

Chapter 38, Rule 3 of the Colorado Supreme Court Rules provides the standard of authorizing expanded media coverage. In determining whether expanded media coverage should be permitted, a judge shall consider the following factors:

1. Whether there is a reasonable likelihood that expanded media coverage would interfere with the rights of the parties to a fair trial.
2. Whether there is a reasonable likelihood that expanded media coverage would unduly detract from the solemnity, decorum, and dignity of the Court: and
3. Whether expanded media coverage would create adverse effects that would be greater than those caused by traditional media coverage.

Discussion/ Analysis

The petitioners seek expanded media coverage in this case for the jury trial of the defendant set to begin on July 14, 2025. After consideration of the above listed three factors, this Court finds that expanded media coverage should be permitted in a very limited capacity as set forth below. However, this Court will require strict adherence to the parameters outlined in Chapter 38, Rule 3 of the Colorado Supreme Court Rules. As a reminder to the petitioners, the Court highlights the following limitations of expanded media coverage:

(3) **Limitations on Expanded Media Coverage.** Notwithstanding this authorization to conduct expanded media coverage, there shall be no:

- (A) Expanded media coverage of jury voir dire;
- (B) Audio recording or “zoom” closeup photography or video of bench conferences;
- (C) Audio recording or closeup photography or video of communications between counsel and client or co-counsel;
- (D) Expanded media coverage of in camera hearings;
- (E) **Photography or video of members of the jury.**

Thus this Order only authorizes expanded media coverage for the jury trial set to begin on July 14, 2025. **Further, this order only allows for expanded media for Openings, Closings and Jury Verdict with the full compliance of all applicable restrictions.**

(4) **Authority to Impose Restrictions on Expanded Media Coverage.** A judge may restrict or limit expanded media coverage as may be necessary to preserve the dignity of the court or to protect the parties, witnesses, or jurors. A judge may terminate or suspend expanded media coverage at any time upon making findings of fact that: (1) rules established under this Rule or additional rules imposed by the judge have been violated; or (2) substantial rights of individual participants or rights to a fair trial will be prejudiced by such coverage if it is allowed to continue.

Thus the expanded media coverage granted for the jury trial, specifically those portions as set forth above, is subject to revocation by this Court.

This Court’s Conditions for Coverage. Expanded media coverage shall be conducted only under the following conditions. The judge maintains final approval of all arrangements:

Equipment Limitations.

1. **Video.** The media shall be given access to the courtroom, in a location as designated by the judge or other representative of the Arapahoe County District Court administration and the petitioners shall be responsible for pooling pursuant to the arrangements outlined below. There shall be only one such camera in the Courtroom from which the proceedings may be viewed. Only one person shall be permitted to operate the one videotape, television, or motion picture camera. The camera operator may use a tripod, but shall not change location while Court is in session. Video recording shall only be allowed for Openings, Closings and Verdict.
2. **Audio.** The Court will only allow audio recording for those portions of the trial as set forth above; Openings, Closings and Verdict. This recording is to be done as part of the video allowed as set forth above and no additional recording equipment shall be authorized.
3. **Still Cameras.** No still photography will be allowed in the courtroom other than during any those times set above. The above limitations shall apply to include no close up photography of any party, attorney, the Court, or the jury.
4. **Lighting.** No movie lights, flash attachments, or sudden lighting changes shall be permitted. No modification or addition of lighting equipment shall be allowed.

5. Operating Signals. No visible or audible light or signal (tally light) shall be used on any equipment.

Pooling Arrangements. The media shall be solely responsible for designating one media representative to conduct each of the categories of expanded media coverage listed above, and for arranging an open and impartial distribution scheme with a distribution point located outside of the Courthouse. If no agreement can be reached on either of these matters, there shall be no expanded media coverage of that type. Neither judges nor other Court personnel shall be called upon to resolve any disputes concerning pooling arrangements.

Conduct of Media Representatives.

Persons conducting expanded media coverage shall handle themselves in a manner consistent with the decorum and dignity of the Courtroom. The following practices shall apply:

1. Equipment employed to provide expanded media coverage shall be positioned and operated so as to minimize any distraction;
2. Identifying marks, call letters, logos, symbols, and legends shall be concealed on all equipment. Persons operating such equipment shall not wear clothing bearing any such identifying information; and
3. No equipment used to provide expanded media coverage shall be placed in, or removed from, the Courtroom while Court is in session. No film, videotape, or lens shall be changed within the Court while Court is in session.
4. Members of the media may utilize personal digital assistants (PDAs), laptops, tablets, and notebooks in the courtroom with wireless capabilities so long as it creates no disruption during the course of the trial. **Audio streaming, photographs, digital recording and voice phone service from the courtroom are strictly banned.** All members of the media must comply with any requests issued by the Sheriff's Department in regard to courtroom security.
5. The Court will allow media to participate in the Webex broadcast. **No media outlet or non-media individual may record, either audio or video, from Webex.** Further, when entering the Webex, media must clearly and fully identify themselves by name and organization in order to gain admittance into the Webex conference. The Court reserves the right to remove any media organization from the Webex for violation of any of the above restrictions, security concerns, or other concerns relating to the fairness of the proceedings.
6. The Court **will not** be utilizing any additional livestream platforms, other than Webex, throughout the proceedings.
7. The parties and the Court have gone to great lengths to protect the privacy of the minor children involved in this matter. This includes limiting the use of or striking the names of said minors during hearings and court documents. The Court orders the media to maintain this order of privacy and protection regarding the children of the victim and defendant. Should the media hear testimony, argument or other proceedings which use the names of the children, the media shall not disclose said names in any releases whether written or oral. Any video or

audio recordings obtained during Openings, Closings or Verdict shall be subject to this order as well and will require redaction prior to use or dissemination.

8. Pursuant to Chief Judge Order 23-12 Concerning Electronic Devices in Judicial Buildings and Probation Offices in the Eighteenth Judicial District, media with valid media credentials are permitted to use their cameras in the hallways and public areas of the courthouse. However, CJO 23-12 permits the Chief Judge to limit the use of cameras or other recording devices to designated areas. The undersigned has conferred with the Chief Judge and the Chief Judge will permit cameras in the hallways and public areas of the courthouse, ***except cameras or recording devices shall only be permitted on the second floor of courthouse 1 of the Arapahoe County Justice Center inside the specifically cordoned off areas designated for media.***

ACCORDINGLY, This Court hereby GRANTS, with amendments, the petitioner(s) request for expanded media coverage for the defendant's jury trial set to begin on July 14, 2025, subject to the terms and conditions of Chapter 38, Rule 3 of the Colorado Supreme Court Rules and this Order.

Done this June 18, 2024.

BY THE COURT:



Shay K. Whitaker
District Court Judge

**EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT:
ARAPAHOE, DOUGLAS, ELBERT and
LINCOLN COUNTIES, COLORADO**

**Arapahoe County Justice Center
7325 South Potomac Street
Centennial, Colorado 80112**

**Arapahoe County Courthouse
1790 West Littleton Boulevard
Littleton, Colorado 80120**

**Douglas County Courthouse
4000 Justice Way, #2009
Castle Rock, Colorado 80109**

**Elbert County Courthouse
PO Box 232, 751 Ute Street
Kiowa, Colorado 80117**

**Lincoln County Courthouse
PO Box 128, 103 Third Avenue
Hugo, Colorado 80821**

▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲

CJO 18-03

Division 201

**CHIEF JUDGE ORDER REGARDING CERTAIN PROHIBITED
ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE ARAPAHOE COUNTY JUSTICE
CENTER**

Pursuant to the authority granted to chief judges of the judicial districts of the State of Colorado by Chief Justice Directive 95-01, "Authority and Responsibility of Chief Judges," the undersigned, in his role as Chief Judge of the 18th Judicial District, enters this Order, which applies to the Arapahoe County Justice Center ("ACJC"). This Order replaces Amended CJO 15-02, which was issued on July 8, 2015.

The Court has the responsibility and authority to ensure the efficient performance of judicial functions, to protect the dignity, independence, and integrity of the courts, and to make the lawful actions of the courts effective. Specifically, the Courts must ensure the safe and orderly use of the facilities of ACJC, including the free flow of pedestrian traffic. Those having business at

ACJC must be able to enter and exit Courthouse grounds and facilities freely, in a safe and orderly fashion, and unhindered by threats, intimidation, interference, or harassment. The Court also must provide a secure environment for all who enter the Courthouse grounds, and must minimize activities that unreasonably disrupt or interfere with the orderly and peaceful conduct of court business. It is imperative that the Court provide for the fair and orderly conduct of court proceedings and maintain proper judicial decorum by ensuring a neutral forum free of actual or perceived partiality, bias, prejudice, or favoritism. Accordingly, the Court finds that it is reasonable, necessary, and appropriate to impose certain restrictions on expressive activity at ACJC without regard to the content or viewpoint of any particular message, idea, or form of speech.

Prohibited Activities: The following activities shall be prohibited on those portions of the Courthouse grounds that are covered by yellow lines on the attached map. The prohibition on the following activities shall be enforced Monday thru Friday from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm.

- **Picketing; displaying signs or banners; protesting; parading; writing or drawing with chalk; holding vigils or religious services; proselytizing; preaching; distributing literature or other materials; gathering signatures; petitioning; or engaging in similar conduct that interferes with the ability of any person to move about the Courthouse grounds or freely enter and exit the Courthouse facilities.**
- **Soliciting; selling goods or services, requesting donations, or engaging in any other commercial activity except to the extent that any solicitation or commercial activity is directed to the Judicial Branch or Arapahoe County.**
- **Encumbering any location on Courthouse grounds with personal property (tents, chairs, tables, podiums, etc.).**

In addition, the following activities are prohibited at any location on the attached map of Courthouse grounds:

- **Obstructing the clear passage of law enforcement, emergency vehicles and personnel, Courthouse personnel, or other persons.**

- **Using sound amplification equipment in a manner that is audible inside the Courthouse facilities or that otherwise violates county ordinances.**

This Order shall not operate to preclude law enforcement or security staff from taking additional appropriate steps to ensure the orderly and peaceful conduct of court business at ACJC. Further, this Order shall be enforced by the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office and Courthouse security staff as necessary. All persons on the Courthouse grounds shall comply with the lawful requests, directions, and orders of any law enforcement officers and security staff while such law enforcement officers and security staff are performing their official duties.

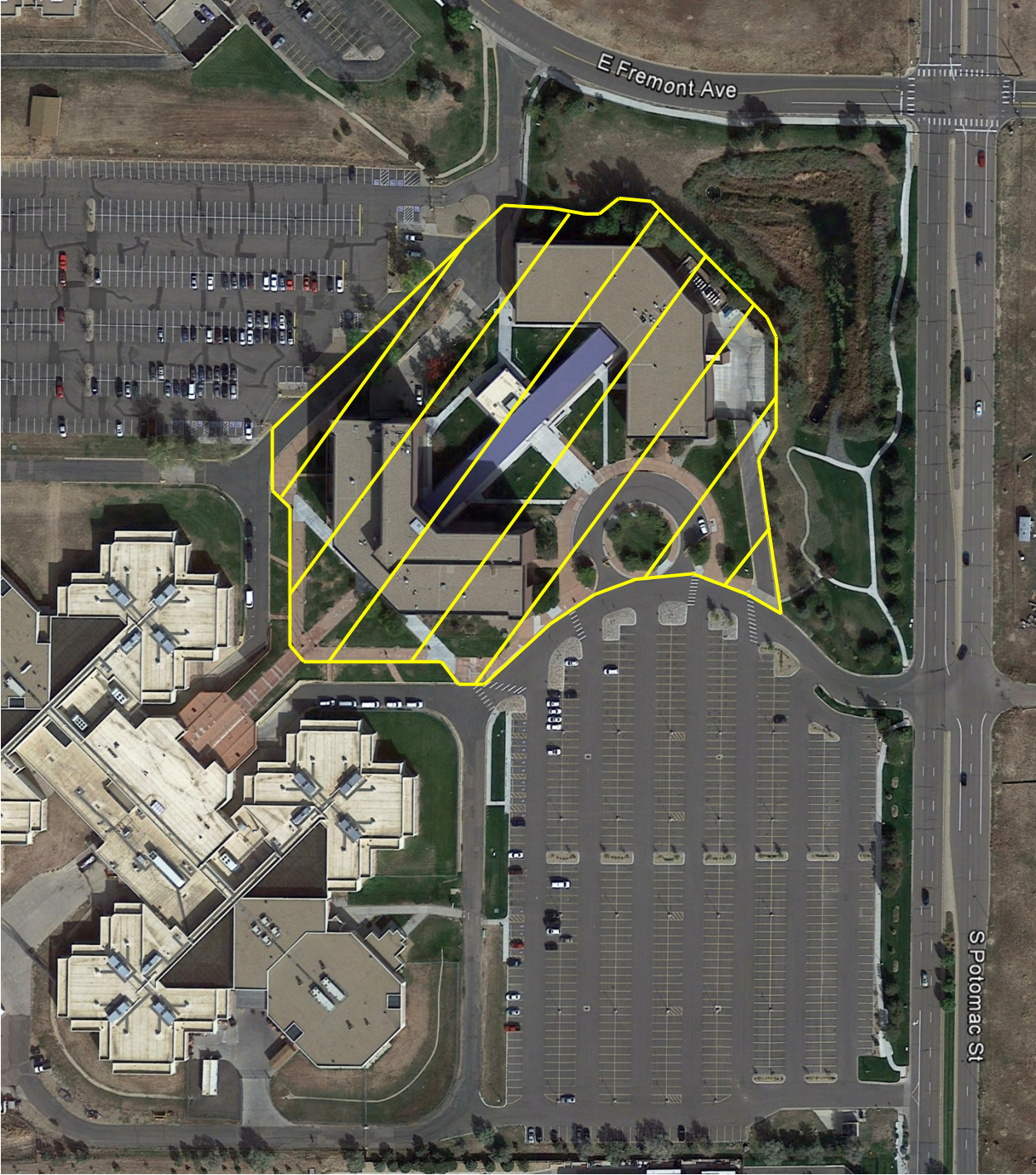
This Order shall be posted at each public entrance at ACJC. It shall also be posted at such other places as will reasonably assist in providing notice of this Order.

Entered this 28th day of June of 2018.

BY THE COURT:



Carlos A. Samour, Jr.
Chief Judge
Eighteenth Judicial District



EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT:
ARAPAHOE, DOUGLAS, ELBERT and
LINCOLN COUNTIES, COLORADO

Arapahoe County Justice Center
7325 South Potomac Street
Centennial, Colorado 80112

Arapahoe County Courthouse
1790 West Littleton Boulevard
Littleton, Colorado 80120

Douglas County Justice Center
4000 Justice Way, #2009
Castle Rock, Colorado 80109

Elbert County Courthouse
PO Box 232, 751 Ute Street
Kiowa, Colorado 80117

Lincoln County Courthouse
PO Box 128, 103 Third Avenue
Hugo, Colorado 80821

▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲

**CJO 23-12
November 13, 2023**

**CHIEF JUDGE ORDER 23-12 CONCERNING ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN
JUDICIAL BUILDINGS AND PROBATION OFFICES IN THE
EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

Pursuant to authority granted to chief judges of the judicial districts of the State of Colorado by Chief Justice Directive 95-01, "Authority and Responsibility of Chief Judges," the undersigned, in her role as the Chief Judge of the Eighteenth Judicial District, enters the following specific orders regarding the use of electronic devices by the public in judicial buildings and probation offices in the Eighteenth Judicial District. This CJO 23-12 is entered in order to ensure fair and orderly conduct of court proceedings, to maintain proper judicial decorum, and to protect the dignity and integrity of the court. Electronic devices include, but are not limited to, devices such as cell phones, laptops, computer tablets, and any other device capable of taking photographs and/or audio or video recording.

For all court proceedings in the Eighteenth Judicial District, including any court proceedings that are remote proceedings or live streamed, **ONLY THE COURT HAS THE AUTHORITY TO CAPTURE THE OFFICIAL COURT RECORD. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS OF PROCEEDINGS MAY BE ORDERED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE COURT.**

COURTROOMS:

All electronic devices shall be turned off or set to vibrate or silent mode settings. An electronic device may be used if it is not disruptive and the presiding judicial officer, or the court staff operating under the presiding judicial officer's direction, has not prohibited or restricted its use. No person, except judicial officers and court staff, shall use an electronic device to take photographs, make audio or video recordings or transmit live audio or video streaming of any court proceeding or person including, but not limited to, the judicial officer, jurors, witnesses, or parties.

HALLWAYS AND PUBLIC AREAS OF THE COURTHOUSE BUILDINGS:

Electronic devices may be used so long as such use is not disruptive of court proceedings or court-related business. Electronic devices must be set to vibrate or silent mode and may not be used to capture images (except of court documents), videos, or sound recordings in the hallways and public areas of the courthouse buildings, including, but not limited to, in the clerk's offices, clerk's windows, conference rooms or offices used by family court facilitators, jury assembly rooms, or other areas of the courthouse where jurors are located. The Chief Judge retains the discretion to further restrict use and possession of electronic devices in hallways and public areas of the courthouse buildings (other than courtrooms) and may delegate that authority to the Clerks of Court and/or their designees.

PROBATION OFFICES:

Electronic devices may be used so long as such use is not disruptive of probation meetings or probation-related business. Electronic devices must be set to vibrate or silent mode and may not be used to capture images (except of court documents), videos, or sound recordings in the hallways and public areas of the probation offices. A probation client may use electronic devices for video or sound recording during probation meetings when the probation client has notified the probation officer that they are recording. The Chief Judge retains the discretion to further restrict use and possession of electronic devices in hallways

and public areas of the probation offices and may delegate that authority to the Chief Probation Officer.

MEDIA:

Members of the media desiring access to the courthouse with cameras or other recording devices shall be required to present a valid media credential or other valid government-issued photo identification and business card at the security checkpoint. For those with a valid media credential or government-issued photo identification and business card, cameras shall be permitted and may be used in the hallways and public areas of the courthouse buildings. The use of cameras or other recording devices may be limited to designated areas in the courthouse buildings. Colorado Supreme Court Rules govern the use of cameras and recording devices by the media inside the courtrooms. Public Access to Records and Information Court Rule 3, Chapter 38, governing Expanded Media Coverage of Court Proceedings shall be followed for all requests for expanded media coverage inside the courtroom or for any remote proceedings. Cameras are strictly prohibited inside the courtroom absent an expanded media coverage request being granted by the presiding judicial officer.

EXCEPTIONS:

Exceptions to this CJO 23-12 may be granted by a judicial officer only with the prior approval of the Chief Judge. This CJO 23-12 does not limit the authority of individual judicial officers to issue necessary and reasonable orders governing the use of electronic devices inside their courtrooms or in matters pending before them. A judicial officer may further restrict or expand the use and possession of electronic devices in their courtrooms for events such as investitures, ceremonies, adoptions, and weddings.

The use of Body-Worn Cameras within the courthouse by any peace officer acting pursuant to a law enforcement agency's specific policies and procedures shall be exempt from this CJO 23-12. However, only deputies employed by the Office of the Sheriff in Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln Counties and Colorado Department of Corrections officers acting pursuant to their authority in C.R.S. § 16-2.5-135, shall be expressly permitted to use Body-Worn Cameras within a courtroom.

VIOLATIONS:

Anyone found to be in violation of this CJO 23-12 is subject to having the

electronic device confiscated and/or lawfully searched and may also be subject to contempt of court proceedings pursuant to C.R.C.P. 107. Sanctions for contempt of court may be remedial, punitive, or both, including a fine and/or a jail sentence. Any judicial officer, court security personnel, or law enforcement officer may immediately confiscate and temporarily secure such electronic device for purposes of investigating a violation of this Order. The judicial officer (or the Chief Judge or a designated judicial officer if the violation occurred outside a courtroom) shall then determine whether contempt proceedings shall be initiated and provide direction as to the disposition of the electronic device and any potential evidence. In the event the search of an electronic device initiated pursuant to a violation of this CJO 23-12 reveals evidence of a separate law violation, law enforcement shall determine what action to take pursuant to their agency protocols for investigating a crime.

This CJO 23-12 replaces the Second Amended CJO 14-21.

Issued this 13th day of November 2023.

BY THE COURT:



Michelle A. Amico

Chief Judge

Eighteenth Judicial District