

## U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit Portable Electronic Devices Policy

This policy concerns the possession and use of portable electronic devices by visitors - including attorneys, litigants, members of the media, and members of the public - in court facilities of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Portable electronic devices include cellular phones, “smartphones,” tablets, laptop computers, devices that wirelessly connect to and pair with computers and smartphones to transmit data (including smart watches, earpieces, and headphones), as well as audio recorders, still cameras, and video cameras. “Court facilities” are defined as the Elbert P. Tuttle Courthouse and John C. Godbold Federal Building in Atlanta.

1. Visitors, except for attorneys and their staff members, shall not bring portable electronic devices into court facilities without prior written approval. Visitors who bring a device to court facilities without approval must check the device at the security checkpoint or take other action as directed to gain access to the facilities.
2. In all locations where the Eleventh Circuit holds court, advance written approval from the presiding judge is required for visitors to use a portable electronic device during a court session. Requests shall be in writing and, if applicable, filed on the docket.
3. Court unit executives or designees may authorize visitors with official business with that court unit to possess and use portable electronic devices in court facilities. The authorization shall be in writing. Note that 11th Cir. R. 33-1(c)(3) prohibits the audio or visual recording of mediation sessions.
4. Attorneys and their staff members are permitted to bring portable electronic devices into court facilities. Attorneys may be required to provide proof of identity, such as a bar card. Attorneys may use portable electronic devices in court facilities and during any court session. However, the presiding judge may limit or deny the use of portable electronic devices during any court session.

Members of the media seeking to possess and use a portable electronic device during a court session in a location where the Eleventh Circuit holds court shall submit a written request to [ce11\\_press@ca11.uscourts.gov](mailto:ce11_press@ca11.uscourts.gov). Other visitors must contact the appropriate court unit for further instructions.

Note that 11th Cir. R. 34-4(i) prohibits the audio or visual recording of court proceedings by anyone other than the Court. Wired or wireless internet access will not be provided to visitors in court facilities.

The policy does not apply to staff members of this Court. It also does not apply to court security officers and other law enforcement officials on official business or contractors providing services to the Court unless otherwise directed by Court staff.

This policy will be displayed prominently in court facilities and will be posted on the Court's website. Failure to adhere to the policy may result in removal from court facilities or other sanction.

The United States Marshals Service, through its Court Security Officer program, is responsible for enforcing the Portable Electronic Devices Policy.

  
Chief Judge Pryor

(Policy Adopted February 13, 2024)