

**BRADFORD COUNTY CELL PHONE
AND
ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY**

AND NOW, April 18, 2017, the Court of Common Pleas of Bradford County has hereby entered an Administrative Order implementing a Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy.

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Rules of Judicial Administration, Rule 1910 provides that “Judges should prohibit broadcasting, televising, recording or taking photographs in the courtroom and areas immediately adjacent thereto...” with various exceptions; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rule 112 prohibits the taking of photographs, video or motion pictures, recordings (except by official court reporter) and transmission of communications by telephone, radio, television or advanced communication technology in or from the court room or hearing room or its environs during the progress of or in connection with any judicial proceedings, whether or not the court is actually in session; and

WHEREAS, the Court of Common Pleas of Bradford County has experienced instances of individuals photographing inmates, Sheriff Deputies, Probation Officers and recording testimony with various devices; and

WHEREAS, the Court of Common Pleas of Bradford County finds it necessary to prohibit such devices in the Bradford County Courthouse in order to preserve the intention and public policy of the Rules of Judicial Administration, Rule 1910 and Rule of Criminal Procedure, Rule 112, the integrity of the courts and privacy of litigants, witnesses and court proceedings as well as court officers and employees of Bradford County.

NOW THEREFORE, as of May 15, 2017, cellular telephones, electronic devices, cameras, and any devices capable of photographing, recording sound or video and/or transmitting communications are prohibited in the Bradford County Courthouse subject to the exceptions set forth herein. There will be a limited number of lockers at the front door of the Courthouse to store cellular phones.

EXCEPTIONS: There are six (6) categories of individuals who will be permitted to possess cellular telephones and/or electronic devices in the Bradford County Courthouse. These individuals, however, are prohibited from using such devices for photographing, videoing, recording or transmitting communications in or from the courtroom or hearing room or its environs during the progress of or in connection with any judicial proceedings, whether or not the court is actually in session. Further, any such device must be turned off upon entering a courtroom. A violation or abuse of this Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy will subject individual to possible suspension of cellular telephone or electronic device privilege and/or confiscation of such device, contempt of court proceedings, fines and/or incarceration. The six (6) categories are as follows:

1. Bradford County Employees: All employees and elected officials with issued Bradford County identification cards will be permitted to possess their cellular telephones or electronic devices in the Bradford County Courthouse.

2. Law Enforcement: All law enforcement with proper identification presented to the sheriff deputy at the entrance of the Courthouse will be permitted to possess their cellular telephones or electronic devices in the Bradford County Courthouse.

3. Attorneys: All attorneys with proper identification (i.e. Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Attorney identification card) presented to the sheriff deputy at the entrance of the Courthouse will be permitted to possess their cellular telephones or electronic devices in the Bradford County Courthouse.

4. Jurors: All jurors reporting for jury selection or jury duty with proper jury summons or pass provided by Court Administration presented to the sheriff deputy at entrance of the Courthouse will be permitted to possess their cellular telephones or electronic devices in the Bradford County Courthouse.

5. Individuals in the Courthouse on official business related to their employment. This category will include, but not be limited to agency employees in the course of their regular and continuous court related work, abstractors, employees of attorneys and/or journalists and media.

Individuals in this category must apply for a cell phone pass from the Court Administrator's Office by completing an application. The information required will be the individual's name, photo identification, the identity of the individual's employer, the individual's occupation, and the purpose for the request. The application will be on the Court Administrator's website or may be picked up at the Court Administrator's Office. The application must be submitted to the Court Administrator's office. Upon approval of the application, the Court Administrator's Office will contact the applicant to arrange for their signature for receipt of the pass. The person requesting a pass must be present in the Court Administrator's Office to show photo ID and personally obtain the pass.

Any such cell phone pass issued shall be used only by the person who obtained the pass. Such individual may be required to produce photo ID when using the pass. The issuance of such a pass is in the sole discretion of the Court of Common Pleas of Bradford County.

6. Evidentiary Purposes or Photographic Purposes. The Court of Common Pleas of Bradford County recognizes that individuals use cellular phones and electronic devices to present evidence in certain proceedings and that it is important to individuals involved in adoption proceedings, swearing in ceremonies and other such proceedings to have photographs taken after any such proceedings.

Individuals in this category must apply for a temporary cell phone pass from the Court Administrator's Office by completing an application. Individuals with the temporary pass who present same to the sheriff deputy at the entrance of Courthouse will be permitted to possess their cellular telephones or electronic devices in the Bradford County Courthouse on the date for which said pass is issued.

The information required on the application will be the individual's name, photo identification, the name and court term number of the case and the purpose for the request. The application will be on the Court Administrator's website or can be picked up at the Court Administrator's Office. The application must be submitted to the Court Administrator's office. Upon approval of the application the Court Administrator's Office will issue a temporary pass for the date and time of the hearing. The person requesting a pass must be present in the Court Administrator's Office to show photo ID and personally obtain the pass. Any such temporary cell phone pass issued shall be used only by the person who obtained the pass.

Such individual may be required to produce photo ID when using the pass. The issuance of such a pass is in the sole discretion of the Court of Common Pleas of Bradford County. The device must be turned off at all times while in the Bradford County Courthouse until permitted to be turned on by the judge or hearing master for the purpose for which the pass was obtained.

ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO WILLFULLY VIOLATES THE ORDER OF COURT INCORPORATING THE ABOVE CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY MAY BE HELD IN CONTEMPT OF COURT WHICH COULD RESULT IN A FINE OF UP TO \$1,000.00 AND/OR INCARCERATION OF UP TO 6 MONTHS. FURTHER, ANY SUCH DEVICE USED IN VIOLATION OF THE ORDER OF COURT INCORPORATING THE ABOVE CELL PHONE POLICY MAY BE CONFISCATED.