

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE:

FAMILY DIVISION

**ORDER GOVERNING THE USE OF
ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE
FAMILY LAW CENTER**

AD - 08 404 - FD

ORDER OF COURT

AND NOW, this 24th day of September, 2008, the Judges of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, Family Division, hereby adopt the following policy governing the use of electronic devices in the Family Law Center.

1. The use of electronic devices, including but not limited to video cameras, cell phones, camera phones, personal data assistants (PDAs), or any device that may allow for the taking of photographs, the transmission of communications and/or the recording of sound, is strictly prohibited within the designated areas of the Family Law Center. Prohibited areas shall include all courtrooms, hearing rooms, adjacent hallways, and all other sites identified and clearly marked consistent with the provisions contained in Paragraph 2 of this Order.
2. The District Court Administrator shall provide for appropriate and formal signage notifying all individuals entering the Family Law Center of this policy. Further, clear and visible signage shall be conspicuous throughout the facility.
3. In areas identified where the use of electronic devices is permitted, such permission shall apply only to the use of cell phones and PDAs. Unless specifically authorized by the President Judge, Administrative Judge, a judge of the Family Division, or the District Court Administrator, the taking of photographs and the recording of sound is strictly prohibited in all areas of the Family Law Center.

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4. The Sheriff of Allegheny County and duly authorized deputies shall be responsible for enforcement of this policy and shall have the authority to confiscate, forthwith, any prohibited device used within prohibited areas. Further, the Sheriff is directed to promulgate policies and procedures to provide for the storage, retention, and disposition of confiscated devices.

5. Violations of this policy may result in criminal contempt proceedings.

This policy shall be effective September 29, 2008.

BY THE COURT:



KIM BERKELEY CLARK
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE



KIM D. EATON
SUPERVISING JUDGE OF THE FAMILY
DIVISION ADULT SECTION