

Title 255 – Local Court Rules

Blair County

**Adoption of New Rule of Judicial Administration Uniform Rules Regarding Broadcasting,
Taking of Sound Recording, Photographs, Audio, Video or Motion Pictures of Judicial
Proceedings in the Hearing Room or Courtroom or its Environs; Local Rule of Judicial
Administration; No. 58 of 2018**

Order


And Now, this 6th day of September, 2018, *It Is Hereby Ordered and Decreed* that the Blair County Court of Common Pleas adopts the following local rule governing uniform rules regarding broadcasting, taking of sound recording, photographs, video, or motion pictures of judicial proceedings in the hearing room or courtroom or its environs for the 24th Judicial District of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

The Blair County District Court Administrator is Ordered and Directed to do the following:

- 1) File one (1) copy of these Rules with the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts via email to adminrules@pacourts.us.
- 2) File two (2) paper copies and one (1) electronic copy in a Microsoft Word format only to bulletin@palrb.us with the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.
- 3) Publish these Rules on the Blair County Court website at www.blairco.org.
- 4) File one (1) copy which shall be kept continuously available for public inspection and copying in the Office of Prothonotary of Blair County and the Blair County Law Library.

Said Local Rule of Judicial Administration shall be effective in the 24th Judicial District of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania thirty (30) days after publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and upon publication on the Blair County website.

BY THE COURT:


ELIZABETH A. DOYLE
PRESIDENT JUDGE

PROTHONOTARY
CLERK OF DISTRICTS COURT
2018 SEP -6 P 3:04

Blair Co.R.Jud.A. 1910; Uniform Rules regarding Broadcasting, Taking of Sound Recording, Photographs, Video, or Motion Pictures of Judicial Proceedings in the Hearing Room or Courtroom or its Environs

Rule 1910. Broadcasting, Taking of Sound Recording, Photographs, Video or Motion Pictures.

1. No sound recording, photograph, video recording, cellular phone recording, or motion picture of any type may be made or taken of any judicial proceeding, which includes during, immediately before or immediately after said proceeding or in any hearing room or courtroom or in the area immediately surrounding the entrances or exits of such rooms, without the prior permission of the presiding judge, the presiding hearing officer, or the designee of the presiding judge or the presiding hearing officer.

2. All electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cellular phones, tablets, laptops and cameras, shall be powered off (not simply muted) in all hearing rooms, courtrooms and in the area immediately surrounding the entrances and exits of such rooms unless permission to activate such device has been first obtained in advance from the presiding judge, the presiding hearing officer or the designee of the presiding judge or the presiding hearing officer. This directive specifically includes the public, parties, witnesses, support staff of participants, and attorneys. This provision does not apply to any Deputy Sheriff.

3. No sound recording, video recording, photograph, cellular phone recording or motion picture of any party, witness, juror, police officer, judge or judicial officer connected to a pending judicial proceeding may be taken or made in the courthouse or in any building housing a courtroom or hearing room, whether or the court is actually in session, without the prior permission of the presiding judge, the presiding hearing officer or the designee of the presiding judge or presiding hearing officer.

4. The transmission in any form by any means of any conversation or testimony taken by any electronic means during or anytime thereafter any judicial proceeding without the prior permission of the presiding judge, the presiding hearing office or the designee of the presiding judge or presiding hearing officer is strictly prohibited.

5. Violation of this Order may constitute contempt of court and result in the confiscation of such device and the deletion of any offending data or material on such device, the imposition of a fine of up to \$1,000.00 and/or imprisonment of up to six (6) months upon a finding of contempt of this rule.

6. The presiding judge, the presiding hearing officer, the District Court Administrator, the designee of the presiding judge, the presiding hearing officer or the District Court Administrator, including the courtroom staff of the presiding judge or presiding hearing officer and the Sheriff of Blair County or his deputy, are authorized to enforce this Order, including taking immediate possession of any offending device.

7. Any device confiscated pursuant to this Order that is not claimed by its lawful owner within seven (7) business days of such confiscation shall be deemed forfeited to the County of Blair.