

IN THE SUPREME COURT, STATE OF WYOMING

April Term, A.D. 2013

***In the Matter of the Adoption of a
Policy Governing Use of Cameras and
Wireless Communication Devices During
Supreme Court Proceedings***

ORDER ESTABLISHING POLICY GOVERNING USE OF CAMERAS AND WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES DURING SUPREME COURT PROCEEDINGS

This matter came before the Court on its own motion. This Court finds it should adopt a policy governing use of cameras and wireless communication devices by individuals attending or participating in Wyoming Supreme Court proceedings. Therefore, effective immediately, this Court adopts the following policy:

- (a) Absent express authorization by the Court, individuals attending or participating in open court or confidential proceedings shall not use or operate any camera, video recording device, or audio recording device to record, broadcast, or photograph the proceedings.
- (b) Except as provided, individuals attending or participating in open court or confidential proceedings shall not use a Wireless Communication Device during the proceedings. Such devices shall be completely turned off and not merely set to “vibrate” or a similar setting.
- (c) Wireless Communication Devices are those electronic devices that are capable of wirelessly transmitting voice and/or data including, but not limited to mobile phones, cellular communication devices, personal digital assistants (PDAs), and computers.
- (d) Counsel of record during oral argument.
- (i) Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, attorneys may use laptop computers that can access the internet at counsel tables during oral argument, provided that the rules prohibiting photography, recording and broadcasting court proceedings are not violated and all audio sounds are muted.

(ii) Attorneys of record may use cell phones, PDAs, and other Wireless Communication Devices at counsel table only with the express permission of the Court.

(e) A violation of this order may result in the immediate removal of the person. The Court Security Officer or other law enforcement officers acting on the Court's behalf are authorized to confiscate, seize and inspect Wireless Communication Devices or cameras used, or suspected of being used, in violation of this order, and/or remove the person suspected to have violated this order. Seized Wireless Communication Devices or cameras will generally be returned after the conclusion of proceedings or as otherwise directed by the Court.

(f) A violation of this order may be punished by contempt of court, giving due consideration to the nature of the violation and any history of similar or past violations. A violation that disrupts a Court proceeding may be punished by direct summary contempt proceedings.

(g) Any person who brings a camera or Wireless Communication Device into a Wyoming Supreme Court open court or confidential proceeding shall be deemed to have consented to the terms and conditions of, and to be subject to, this order.

(h) This order is not applicable to employees of the Wyoming Supreme Court, including the Clerk of Court, judicial staff and administrative staff.

(i) Copies of this order shall be conspicuously posted at the entry of the Wyoming Supreme Court building and shall be available, upon request, from the Clerk of Court or the Court Security Officer. This order shall also be made available online at the Wyoming Judicial Branch's website, <http://www.courts.state.wy.us>.

DATED this 17th day of July, 2013.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

MARILYN S. KITE
Chief Justice