

**STATE OF MAINE**  
**SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER JB-05-16 (A. 2-23)

USE OF CELLULAR PHONES, PAGERS, COMPUTERS, AND OTHER ELECTRONIC  
DEVICES IN COURTHOUSES

Effective: February 13, 2023

This order amends JB-05-16 (A. 5-08), as amended effective May 1, 2008.

All cellular phones, pagers, computers, and other electronic devices shall be turned off prior to entering the courtroom, unless otherwise authorized by the presiding judge, justice, or magistrate.

All camera use in a courtroom is subject to JB-05-15.

The taking of photographs or the making of video or audio recordings in other public areas inside the courthouse is prohibited unless authorized by the State Court Administrator.

This order does not apply to the photographing of court records. See Section I(E) of JB-05-15 regarding photographing paper court records. See Rule 9(E) of the M.R.E.C.S. regarding photographing digital court records.

Any camera, cell phone, computer, or other electronic device that also contains a camera or is equipped to take photographs, video recordings or audio recordings in a courthouse may be subject to confiscation, unless the use of such features on the device is authorized pursuant to JB-05-15 or this order.

Promulgation Date: February 10, 2023

For the Court,

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Valerie Stanfill, Chief Justice  
Supreme Judicial Court

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Use of Cellular Phones, Pagers, and Other Electronic Devices in Courtrooms  
AO JB-05-16 (A. 2-23) dated February 9, 2023, and effective February 13, 2023

Signed by: Valerie Stanfill, Chief Justice, Maine Supreme Judicial Court

Issued to make explicit the policy for taking photographs and audio or video recordings outside the courtroom but within the public spaces of the courthouse. The policy does not apply to the photographing of public court documents. The order and rule regarding the photographing of court documents are referred to in the amended order.

**Historical Derivation of JB-05-16:**

Use of Cellular Phones, Pagers, and Other Electronic Devices in Courtrooms

AO JB-05-16 (A. 5-08), dated April 15, 2008, and effective May 1, 2008

Signed by: Leigh I. Saufley, Chief Justice, Maine Supreme Judicial Court

Use of Cellular Phones, Pagers, and Other Electronic Devices in Courtrooms

AO JB-05-16, dated June 29, 2005, and effective August 1, 2005

Signed by: Leigh I. Saufley, Chief Justice, Maine Supreme Judicial Court

Bringing of Cellular Phones and Pagers into Superior Courtrooms

Superior Court AO, dated September 3, 1997

Signed by: Margaret J. Kravchuk, Chief Justice, Maine Superior Court