

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

J. Casey Costigan
Chief Judge

William Scanlon
Trial Court Administrator
Joy McKinney
Administrative Assistant



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Counties of:
Ford, Livingston, Logan,
McLean, and Woodford

January 23, 2023

Brandon Healey
150 South Wacker Dr., Ste. 2400
Chicago, IL 60606

Re: January 19, 2023, correspondence

Mr. Healey,

I have spoken to Ryan Denham regarding the media credentials for Edgar County Watchdogs. After further discussion we have decided to allow the credentials. The Watchdogs, as well as all credentialed media, will be required to follow the guidelines set forth in Illinois Supreme Court policy for Extended Media Coverage in the Circuit Courts of Illinois as well as the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Rule 307 governing media. I have attached the local rule for your review.

The Circuit Court relies heavily upon the media coordinator, our Sheriff as well as the presiding judge to ensure that these rules are followed. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule, Media Coverage shall be subject at all times to the authority of the judge presiding at the proceeding. Extended media coverage shall not be distracting or interfere with the solemnity, decorum and dignity of the Court making decisions that affect the life, liberty or property of citizens.

If you have any questions, you are free to contact my office or Mr. Denham.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Casey Costigan".

J. Casey Costigan
Chief Circuit Judge

cc: Ryan Denham via email
Sheriff Matt Lane via email
Circuit Judge Mark Fellheimer via email
Trial Court Administrator William Scanlon via email

RULE 307 COURTROOM MANAGEMENT AND DECORUM

A. Cell Phones, Computers and All Other Electronic Devices

1. All persons appearing in Court, whether they are parties to the case, witnesses, victims or members of the public, must turn off all cell phones, computers and all other electronic devices prior to entrance to the courtroom.
2. All attorneys must silence all cell phones and electronic devices upon entry to the courtroom.
3. Attorneys may only operate personal computers within the courtroom during the course of a hearing in which they are participating, and may do so only to assist in the presentation of their case.
1. Authorized court personnel, to include judges, court clerks, court services personnel and court reporters, may operate computers, including laptops and personal computers, within the courtroom while court is in session when such operation is in furtherance of, or related to, official court business.
2. Upon prior approval of the judge presiding in the case, established media representatives may operate personal computers or tablet devices to report on court proceedings while court is in session, unless otherwise ordered by the court to cease said operation. Any person operating personal computers or related electronic devices under this section must clearly display authorized media credentials as provided in Section B(1) below.

B. Cameras, Video Recorders and Audio Recorders

1. Photography, video recording and/or audio recording of court proceedings in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit are governed by Supreme Court MR 2634 (January 2012). Rules and procedures for approval for extended media coverage of court proceedings shall be available from each Court, Circuit Clerk or the office of the Chief Judge.
2. The provisions of Section B(1) do not apply to video and audio closed-circuit transmission of appearances of defendants in custody that occur between a courtroom and jail facility pursuant to 725 ILCS 5/106(D).

C. Media and Interviews

1. No interview of any person, including the judge, shall be held in the courtroom.
2. In certain cases, the Sheriff may designate a specified area or location for interviews, camera and video locations and parking for the media. Media identification may be issued by the Sheriff at his or her discretion for said proceedings.
3. In no instance is any portion of the courtroom reserved specifically for any media personnel,

media outlet or agency with the exception of any order issued in conjunction with Section B above.

D. Clothing and Hats / Headgear

1. Any person appearing for court, or attending a court proceeding, may be barred from the courtroom and their case may be reset if the judge determines that their clothing is inappropriate or offensive to the Court. Any person who falls within this provision shall be given an opportunity to change clothing or cover the inappropriate portions of the message displayed prior to the matter being reset or any other sanction being imposed.
2. All persons entering a courtroom shall remove their coat or outerwear and hat or headgear. The only exception to this requirement is listed in item E(2) below.

E. Religious and/or Sacred Headgear

1. All persons entering any court facility in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit are subject to search as defined by the policies and procedures of the Sheriff of said county. All persons entering may be required to remove any and all headgear if security measures require such action. Any persons claiming exemption to the search policies due to religious beliefs or requirements shall be allowed to remove the item and/or be searched in a private area, under the direct supervision of courthouse screening personnel or Sheriff's court security detail.
2. Any person entering a courtroom seeking exemption to item D(2) above due to religious beliefs or requirements shall be allowed to retain their headgear only upon review of the matter by the judge assigned to the case.

F. Newspapers, Magazines, Books, Electronic Devices and other print or reading materials

All persons who enter a courtroom shall be prohibited from reading materials while in the public sections of the courtrooms. Any attorney may review case materials in preparation for a case but may be ordered out of the courtroom by the judge (or designee) if such activity provides any distraction to the current proceeding.

G. Food, Beverages and other similar items

All food, beverages and other similar items are not allowed within the courtroom by any person, unless specifically authorized by the judge presiding in the case.

Any person in violation of any of the above provisions may be subject to sanctions or further contempt proceedings by the judge presiding in the case.

These policies and procedures may be modified or amended by the judge presiding in any cause before the Court in order to maintain an orderly and equitable proceeding.