

**STATE OF MAINE**  
**SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER JB-05-16 (A. 5-23)

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

Effective: May 9, 2023

This order amends JB-05-16 (A. 4-23), as amended effective April 5, 2023.

All cellular phones, 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 and audio equipment 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, or the court allows its use for purposes of conducting proceedings in which any parties or witnesses are participating remotely.

Promulgation Date: May 8, 2023

For the Court,

        /s/        

Valerie Stanfill, Chief Justice  
Supreme Judicial Court

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Use of Cellular Phones, Computers, and Other Electronic Devices in Courtrooms  
AO JB-05-16 (A. 5-23) dated May 8, 2023, and effective May 9, 2023  
Signed by: Valerie Stanfill, Chief Justice, Maine Supreme Judicial Court  
Issued to remove "PAGERS" from the title of the Order and to correct a typographical error in the Historical Derivation section below, which states the purpose for the amendments effective April 5, 2023.

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

Use of Cellular Phones, Pagers, Computers, and Other Electronic Devices in Courtrooms  
AO JB-05-16 (A. 4-23) dated April 4, 2023, and effective April 5, 2023  
Signed by: Valerie Stanfill, Chief Justice, Maine Supreme Judicial Court  
Issued to eliminate the outdated reference to pagers and to authorize courts to allow the use of electronic devices for purposes of conducting proceedings in which any parties or witnesses are participating remotely.

Use of Cellular Phones, Pagers, Computers, 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.

Use of Cellular Phones, Pagers, Computers, 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