Circuit Court of the \_\_\_\_\_\_ Judicial Circuit

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County, Illinois

Courthouse(s) located at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Local Policy/Rule/Order Regarding Portable Electronic Devices**

1. **Purpose and Scope.**

The purpose of this policy is to provide information to the public regarding the permitted and prohibited uses of portable electronic devices in the above mentioned courthouse(s).

1. **Definitions.**
2. “Portable Electronic Devices” are mobile devices capable of electronically storing, accessing, or transmitting information and is defined to include personal computers, tablet computers, mobile telephones (including cell phones and any form of telephone with cameras and audio and video recording and transmission capabilities), electronic calendars, e-book readers, smartwatches, or similar devices.
3. “Court visitor” means any individual present at a state courthouse in Illinois.
4. “Courthouse” includes all areas within the exterior walls of a court building, or if the court does not occupy the entire building, that portion of the building used for the administration and operation of the court. A “courthouse” also includes areas outside a court building where a judge conducts an event concerning a court case.
5. **Restrictions on Portable Electronic Devices.** The Chief Judge of the \_\_\_\_\_ Circuit determined that allowing Portable Electronic Devices into the above mentioned courthouse(s) interferes with the administration of justice or causes a threat to safety or security, so all Portable Electronic Devices are prohibited from being carried into the courthouse(s) by any court visitor as defined above.
6. **On-site storage of Portable Electronic Devices**. Since Portable Electronic Devices are prohibited from being carried into the courthouse(s), the court requests that the device be left at home or work, in a vehicle, or in another secure place of the court visitor’s choosing. If that is not possible or would cause the court visitor to be late to their proceeding, the court provides on-site secure storage for the device at no additional cost to the court visitor.
7. **Confiscation of Equipment and Ejection:** Court visitors using a Portable Electronic Device, or possessing other electronic devices, in violation of this or any other court order or policy may be removed from the courthouse, found in contempt of court, or subject to penalties as provided by law. Any Portable Electronic Device used in violation of an order may be confiscated and held until the possessor leaves the courthouse. Court personnel shall not be responsible or liable for any damage to or loss of a confiscated Portable Electronic Device.