

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

IN THE MATTER OF )  
 )  
CELLULAR PHONES AND ELECTRONIC )  
DEVICES IN COURTROOMS )

GENERAL ORDER

Rule 53 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and policy of the Judicial Conference of the United States provide that courtroom proceedings in civil and criminal cases in federal district courts may not be broadcast, televised, recorded, or photographed.

In an effort to increase compliance with Rule 53 and Judicial Conference policy, as well as to mitigate interference with sensitive courtroom sound equipment, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana hereby **ORDERS** that cellular phones, electronic tablets, personal digital assistants, and all other electronic devices capable of audio or video recording be turned off (and not simply silenced) in all courtrooms of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana.

Judges have the right to permit counsel and parties to turn such devices on, at the presiding judge's express verbal or written direction.

Specific exceptions to this Order are made for ceremonial proceedings, including naturalization ceremonies. The use of cellular phone and other electronic devices in courtrooms is allowed on these occasions.

Violation of this order may be punished as criminal contempt, and violators face possible sanction of confiscation of the device; fine; and/or imprisonment. This General Order does not apply to the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana.

SO ORDERED.

*All of which is done at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.*

For the Court,



RICHARD L. YOUNG, Chief Judge  
United States District Court