

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
DOMESTIC/JUVENILE DIVISION  
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

**ORDER REGARDING MEDIA  
PARTICIPATION AND GENERAL  
DECORUM AT ALL PROCEEDINGS**

Upon consideration of the public and media interest, and in order to provide for orderly proceedings in all matters in this Court, the Court hereby enters the following Order.

Unless otherwise provided, this Order applies to the Trumbull County Family Court, and all grounds of the Trumbull County Family Court.

Unless otherwise provided, the terms "proceeding" and "proceedings" as used in this Order shall apply to all matters held in open Court to which the public is entitled to attend, including but not limited to pretrials, motion hearings, voir dire and/or trial.

There shall be no photography, transmitting or recording of any kind within the Courthouse except as set forth herein or as permitted by further Order of this Court. The prohibition on photography, transmitting or recording of any kind applies in full force to persons engaged in photographing or recording activities within the Courthouse even if taken or obtained from outside the Courthouse.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that subject to the conditions and limitations set forth herein, and subject to any future revisions, additions or modifications, permission for media recording of the within proceedings is granted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

**SECURITY**

All persons, including but not limited to media personnel, their agents, representatives, assigns or designees and all spectators entering the Trumbull County Family Court or congregating outside the Trumbull County Family Court shall comply with all security procedures set forth by the Trumbull County Sheriff's Office.

All persons entering the Trumbull County Family Court will be subject to screening by a magnetometer and/or wand; or a personal search, if deemed to be appropriate by the

Trumbull County Sheriff's Deputies. All bags, purses or items brought into the Courthouse shall be subject to x- ray scan, and/or personal search. The Trumbull County Sheriff's Office shall have discretion as to whether a person may be admitted into the Courthouse, depending upon the results of the screening. All spectators or media personnel shall enter the Trumbull County Family Court through the main entrance located off of South Main Street. Under no circumstances shall any spectator or media personnel enter or attempt to enter through any other door. Any such attempts may result in temporary or permanent exclusion from the Courthouse, and/or imposition of other legal sanctions.

Spectators and media personnel shall not enter, or attempt to enter any of the non-public areas in the Trumbull County Family Court, unless specifically authorized to do so by the Court and accompanied at all times by Court personnel. The access to non-public areas of the Courthouse is limited by a security access system, and includes but is not limited to the Courts' chambers, the Administrative Office and the Detention Center.

### **PROHIBITED ITEMS**

Beginning on May 1, 2017, electronic devices, including but not limited to computers, cameras, video phones, personal digital assistants, tape recorders or other recording or transmitting devices shall be barred from the Courthouse, except as provided by Order or approval of Court.

Cell phones that may be permitted into the building shall be turned off prior to entering the courtroom and not utilized except on consent of the court.

Media personnel may petition the Court for permission to bring in still cameras, television cameras and/or audio recording devices for use in the Courtroom, as provided in this Order. Only those cameras or recording devices that are specifically authorized by the Court shall be permitted in the Courthouse.

Any person who, without Court authorization, attempts to or does operate any camera, cell phone, video phone or other recording or transmitting device within the Courthouse shall be removed from the premises and the device shall be confiscated.

No person shall wear any clothing, or bring into the Trumbull County Family Court any items

which display a message in support of or against any issue or any party.

### **COURTROOM SEATING**

All persons in the Courtroom, including but not limited to media personnel, shall remain behind the partition separating the Courtroom galley from the Courtroom proper, unless specifically authorized by the Court to enter the Courtroom proper. All persons shall be in the Courtroom and seated fifteen (15) minutes prior to the commencement of each proceeding's session. In the event the Court takes a recess that is less than fifteen minutes long, all persons shall be in the Courtroom and seated five minutes prior to the commencement of the proceeding's session. All persons will remain seated at all times without exception. The Court will not tolerate any behavior which may disrupt the proceedings.

The Court will reserve a total of eight (8) seats in the Courtroom's gallery. Four (4) of the reserved seats shall be filled at the discretion of the Prosecution; the other four (4) reserved seats shall be filled at the discretion of counsel for the child/Defendant. In order to maintain these reserved seats, those delegates chosen by either the Prosecution or counsel for the child/Defendant shall be seated fifteen (15) minutes prior to the commencement of each proceeding's session. In the event the Court takes a recess that is less than fifteen minutes long, all persons shall be in the Courtroom and seated five minutes prior to the commencement of the proceeding's session. Any failure to be seated as outlined above shall result in a forfeiture of the reserved seat for the duration of that day's proceedings.

The Court will divide all available seating remaining in the Courtroom's gallery into two equal sections. The media personnel shall have access to one half of the available seating, while, the other half shall be reserved for members of the public, family members of anyone involved in the proceedings, or any other persons.

In the event of a jury trial, during voir dire, the Court foresees the necessity to limit the number of available seats in the Courtroom's gallery in order to accommodate the prospective jury pool. The Court will divide the remaining available seats in half and assign their availability as discussed above.

The Court will admit members of the public to the media portion of the Courtroom only if seats remain available after all media personnel have been seated. The Court will admit media personnel to the public portion of the Courtroom only if seats remain available after all members of the public have been seated. Each and every other seat in the Courtroom's gallery shall be on a first come, first serve basis. With the exception of the aforementioned, there shall be no reserved seats in the Courtroom.

### **PROHIBITED FILMING, VIDEOTAPING AND/OR RECORDING**

Each witness has the right to object to being filmed, videotaped, recorded or photographed. Any witness who so requests shall not be recorded (either audio or video), televised or photographed. During the testimony of the objecting witness, all media personnel are prohibited from employing any means to record the witness in or out of the Courtroom. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL THERE BE ANY MEDIA RECORDING OF THE IMAGE OF POTENTIAL JURORS OR JURORS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE POTENTIAL JURORS OR JURORS ARE IN THE COURTROOM.

The Court will not permit transmitting, broadcasting, or recording any portion of the voir dire in any matter. Media personnel may attend the proceedings and may report on what they see and hear during the proceedings.

In no event shall media personnel zoom in for close-up coverage or photography of any sidebar conference between the Court and counsel. There shall be no visual recording which would permit someone viewing the recording to determine what was being said by either counsel or the Court by reading lips.

Media personnel shall not record (either audio or video), televise or photograph any minor appearing in Court as a witness without the proper permission from the minor's legal guardian and approval by the Court.

### **PUBLISHING INFORMATION ABOUT JURORS AND/OR POTENTIAL JURORS**

In addition to the prohibition of photographing or recording jurors, the media is prohibited from publishing or otherwise distributing or making available anything that could be used to

personally identify any juror or prospective juror. This is necessary to preserve the jury system, and assure the individual jurors they and their families will not be harassed or jeopardized.

This prohibition does not prohibit members of the media from publishing the number of males or females, or other demographic data, which will not personally identify a particular juror or perspective juror.

### **PUBLISHING INFORMATION ABOUT EXHIBITS**

Except as otherwise Ordered by the Court, until all verdicts are rendered and all trial proceedings have concluded, no media recording shall be made of any exhibit before or after such exhibit is admitted into evidence, except those items which are clearly visible to spectators in the Courtroom's gallery, e.g., maps, charts, blackboards, etc.

Any media personnel who wishes to view items admitted into evidence shall apply, in writing, to the Court. If the Court grants a request to view items admitted into evidence, the Court will arrange for said viewing to be held in the Trumbull County Family Court, with a member of the Court personnel present at all times.

### **ALL MEDIA REQUESTS MUST BE IN WRITING**

Except as otherwise Ordered by the Court, any requests made by media personnel shall be submitted to the Court in writing by filing same with the Trumbull County Clerk of Court, (either Domestic or Juvenile, depending on the case) with a certificate of service affixed to the request. Said certificate of service shall state that copies of the request have been sent to all necessary parties. The term 'necessary parties' includes but is not limited to all counsel of record, and any other potentially affected party, i.e., law enforcement personnel, other media personnel, and Trumbull County Government officials. All parties filing requests shall comply with the policies and procedures set forth by the Trumbull County Clerk of Court. Failure to properly file a request or affix a certificate of service may result in the non-conforming request not being considered until the request conforms to this Order.

### **SPOKESPERSON**

The Court herein designates the Court Administrator for the Trumbull County Family Court as the spokesperson for the Court. Any communications, questions, etcetera other than those

which are required to be filed with the Trumbull County Clerk of Court shall be directed in writing to the Court's spokesperson. No media personnel shall contact or attempt to contact any employee or staff of the Trumbull County Family Court without prior approval of the Court. Media personnel shall direct all inquiries, other than those which are required to be filed with the Trumbull County Clerk of Court to the Administrator. This prohibition does not preclude or prevent media personnel from making inquiries of Court personnel and employees of the Trumbull County Clerk of Court or the Juvenile Clerk of Court, regarding the scheduling of proceedings, items filed with the Court, or requesting any other information that is part of the public record in this matter. This prohibition does not preclude or prevent media personnel from making inquiries of or contacting employees of the Trumbull County Sheriff's Office regarding anything that does not relate to the within matter.

#### **TRANSCRIPTS OF PROCEEDINGS AND/OR VIEWING COURT FILINGS**

Media personnel may apply for copies of transcripts of any non-juvenile proceeding by applying, in writing. Media personnel shall be responsible for all costs associated with the preparation of transcripts requested, and shall comply with all policies and procedures set forth by the Court Reporters for requesting transcripts.

Media personnel may retrieve and print copies of all unsealed documents filed in any non-juvenile matter at the Trumbull County Clerk of Courts' website.

#### **MEDIA PROPERTY AND/OR PROPRIETARY INTEREST**

The media shall have no exclusive property or proprietary interest in the media coverage videotapes, photographs or audiotapes made pursuant to this Order, or any future Order of the Court. At the request of the Court, the Prosecutors' Office, or Defense Counsel, media personnel shall make available the videotapes, audiotapes or photographs taken in conjunction of the within proceedings. This provision shall not require the media to take any special or unusual steps to preserve videotapes, audio recordings, photographs or photograph negatives, unless otherwise Ordered by the Court.

#### **RECORDING PROCEEDINGS IN THE COURTROOM**

Media personnel are prohibited from recording and/or obtaining by any means any

conversation between client and counsel, counsel and counsel, counsel and the Court Reporter, counsel and the Court or the Court and the Court's staff. There shall be no visual recording which would permit someone viewing the recording to determine what is being said by either counsel or the Court by reading lips.

Media personnel are prohibited from recording and/or obtaining by any means conversations between the Court and counsel during sidebar conferences. During said conferences any microphone placed at the Court's Bench shall be disabled so that no portion of the Court's conversation with counsel during the sidebar conference is transmitted, recorded or amplified in any way. There shall be no visual recording which would permit someone viewing the recording to determine what is being said by either counsel or the Court by reading lips.

Media personnel, upon application to and approval by the Court, may install an audio recording and/or transmitting system at the media personnel's expense. All installations of equipment shall subject to approval of the Court. Microphones shall be placed in the Courtroom in an obtrusive, non-destructive manner, and shall be placed as inconspicuously as possible. Said microphones shall not interfere with the movement of those in the Courtroom. Said microphones shall be installed and removed at the expense of the media personnel wishing to have said microphones installed. The maintenance, repair, installation, or alteration of any microphones placed in the Courtroom shall be the responsibility of the media personnel wishing to have said microphones installed, and in no manner shall interfere with, distract, interrupt or otherwise disturb the Court's proceedings

Photographic and other recording devices may be used outside the Courthouse, except that at no time shall access to and egress from the Courthouse be blocked or impeded. No structures shall be erected. Tents, chairs, tables or similar items shall not be placed on the grounds of the Trumbull County Family Court without prior approval of the Court. Any conduct which may damage or destroy the existing lawn, landscaping or areas surrounding the Courthouse is prohibited.

In no event shall media personnel be permitted to utilize photographic or other recording devices outside the Courthouse in order to capture sounds or images inside the Courthouse.

Media personnel and members of the public may photograph, videotape or record audio outside

the Trumbull County Family Court, however any person wishing to do so must stay within certain bounded areas to be designated for such use by the Court. Any persons engaging in photographing, videotaping or audio recording shall not harass or chase any persons entering or leaving the Courthouse, and shall not impede the flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic outside the Courthouse.

### **TELEVISION COVERAGE OF PROCEEDINGS**

There shall be only one television camera from a station in the Courtroom at any time. The camera operator may use a tripod or other stabilizing device, as long as such device will not be distracting to the proceedings. The camera operator shall remain behind the partition separating the Courtroom galley from the Courtroom proper, unless specifically authorized by the Court to enter the Courtroom proper.

In no event shall media personnel distract or disturb Court proceedings. Camera operators and media personnel shall not move about the Courtroom during Court proceedings, or otherwise disturb or distract the proceedings. The use of electronic or photographic equipment which produces distracting sound or light is prohibited. No artificial lighting, other than that normally used in the Courtroom shall be permitted.

In no event shall media personnel zoom in for close-up coverage of sidebar conferences between the Court and counsel. There shall be no visual recording which would permit someone later viewing the recording to determine what is being said by either counsel or the Court by reading lips.

Any and all equipment shall be set up and ready for operation fifteen (15) minutes prior to the commencement of all Court proceedings. In no event will persons be permitted to bring equipment into the Courtroom after the commencement of Court proceedings.

Any cameras which are permitted pursuant to this Order shall be turned on and operating only when in the Courtroom and when Court is in session. Any other use within the Courthouse is prohibited, except by specific authorization by the Court.

### **PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF PROCEEDINGS**

There shall be only one still camera operator from any news agency in the Courtroom at any

time. The camera operator shall be limited to two cameras and two lenses for each camera. Both cameras shall have silent shutters. The camera operator may use a tripod or other stabilizing device, as long as such device will not be distracting to the proceedings. The camera operators shall remain behind the partition separating the Courtroom galley from the Courtroom proper, unless specifically authorized by the Court to enter the Courtroom proper.

In no event shall media personnel distract or disturb Court proceedings. Camera operators and media personnel shall not move about the Courtroom during Court proceedings, or otherwise disturb or distract the proceedings. The use of electronic or photographic equipment which produces distracting sound or light is prohibited. A still camera with a silent shutter is required. No artificial lighting other than that normally used in the Courtroom shall be permitted.

In no event shall media personnel zoom in for close-up coverage of sidebar conferences between the Court and counsel. There shall be no visual recording which would permit someone later viewing the recording to determine what is being said by either counsel or the Court by reading lips.

Any and all equipment shall be set up and ready for operation fifteen (15) minutes prior to the commencement of all Court proceedings. In no event will persons be permitted to bring equipment into the Courtroom after the commencement of Court proceedings.

Any cameras which are permitted pursuant to this Order shall be turned on and operating only when in the Courtroom and when Court is in session. Any other use within the Courthouse is prohibited, except by specific authorization by the Court.

#### **AUDIO RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS**

Any audio recording equipment must be approved by the Court prior to its use during Court sessions. In no event shall media personnel distract or disturb Court proceedings. Anyone with an audio recording device shall not move about the Courtroom during Court proceedings, or otherwise disturb or distract the proceedings. The use of equipment which produces distracting sound or light is prohibited. Any and all equipment shall be set up and ready for operation prior to the commencement of all Court proceedings. In no event will persons be permitted to bring

equipment into the Courtroom after the commencement of Court proceedings.

Any recording devices which are permitted pursuant to this Order shall be turned on and operating only when in the Courtroom and when Court is in session. Any other use within the Courthouse is prohibited.

### **CONDUCT DURING PROCEEDING**

All media representatives shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the decorum and dignity of the Courtroom, and shall adhere to this Order and any future Order of the Court. Failure to do such shall result in temporary or permanent removal from the proceedings, removal from the Courthouse, the Courthouse grounds, and/or any other legal sanctions.

### **NO INTERVIEWS SHALL BE CONDUCTED WITHIN THE COURTHOUSE**

There shall be no obstructions to clear passage through public hallways in the Courthouse. There shall be no interviews conducted within the Courthouse, at any time, except as explicitly authorized by the Court, in writing.

### **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY ORDER**

The failure to comply with any provision of this Order, or any future Order, by any person may result in sanctions, which shall include, but are not limited to removal from the Courtroom or revocation of any previously granted permission extended to the offending individual and any entity on whose behalf that individual is acting as well as implementation of additional media restrictions. Further, upon failure to comply with any Court Order, or the Ohio Rules of Superintendence, the Court may revoke any permission previously granted.

Persons engaging in any other conduct which the Court finds to be disruptive may be temporarily or permanently excluded from the proceedings, the Courthouse, the Courthouse property, and/or face other legal sanctions.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any and all of the conditions and limitations imposed herein shall be subject to further Order of the Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT A COPY OF THIS Order shall be filed at the entrance to the Trumbull County Family Court, and to the entrance to all Courtrooms.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

---

Judge Sandra Stabile Harwood

---

Judge Pamela Rintala