

POLICY
South Central Judicial District
Electronic & Photographic Media Coverage of Judicial Proceedings

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for electronic and photographic media coverage in the South Central Judicial District. This policy is limited to judicial hearings including pre-trial conferences and post trial motions, trials, and formal juvenile hearings. It does not include interviews of judges or judicial personnel when not concerning a specific judicial proceeding.

The policy is effective in Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan, and Sioux Counties.

GUIDELINES

- A. To assure that judicial proceedings are not disrupted and to allow access to participants and the public, media representatives must confine video and audio media coverage to areas not immediately adjacent to courtrooms. The designated areas for such coverage are the main lobbies or first floor lobbies of the courthouses of the South Central Judicial District. Still cameras and video and audio recording equipment are not allowed beyond the first floor main lobby area of any courthouse for specific coverage during any judicial proceedings, except as provided in Section B. Audio or video interviews of trial participants during any judicial proceeding shall be limited to that area.
- B. Exceptions to this policy shall be limited to those set out in North Dakota Supreme Court Administrative Rule 21 and this policy. Any request for an exception to this policy is to be directed to the office of the Clerk of Court and the Judge in writing, at least 48 hours before the judicial proceeding begins. The request shall outline:
 - 1. The title of the action a media representative wishes to cover.
 - 2. The duration and type of coverage being requested.

The judges of this district may allow more than one camera for television broadcast, more than one audio system for radio broadcast, and more than one still camera, if use of the equipment does not interfere with the judicial

proceeding and if it does not significantly reduce space available for the public within the courtroom. With this exception, requirements of Section 7 of North Dakota Supreme Court Administrative Rule 21 will be enforced by the judges of the district.

- C. Media representatives may contact the office of the District Court Administrator to request assignment of specific space for use by the media. Such requests must be made at least 48 hours before the judicial proceeding begins. If space is available, it is to be used to monitor proceedings. Personal interviews during the course of the judicial proceeding must be conducted under the requirements of Section A.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed by the Judges of the South Central District every two years. Suggested revisions should be addressed to the Presiding Judge for consideration.

SUMMARY

This policy assures that media representatives will be allowed general coverage of judicial proceedings. It assures the dignity of participants involved in judicial proceedings in this judicial district.

Approved:

BY:

Gail Hagerty
Gail Hagerty
Presiding Judge
South Central Judicial District
North Dakota

Dated:

11-7-16

Adopted 1986
Revised 10/98
Revised 10/09
Revised 4/2011
Revised 9/2014
Approved 11/2016