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INYO CO. SUPERIOR COURT
ALI R. McMURRY, CLERK
BY DEPUTY

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF INYO

STANDING ORDER NO 26-060

USE OF RECORDING AND PHOTOGRAPHY DEVICES

IN COURTHOUSE FACILITIES AND

OVER AUDIO OR VIDEO PLATFORMS

It is well settled that while the media has the right to attend and report on open judicial proceedings, there is no constitutional right to photograph or otherwise electronically record them. (See *Marin Independent Journal v Municipal Court* (1993) 12 Cal.App.4th 1712, 1718 ["Electronic recording of judicial proceedings is subject to the discretion of the court"], citing *Nixon v Warner Communications, Inc.* (1978) 435 U.S. 589, 610). A court has the right, and the duty, to guard the rights of the parties appearing before it, to maintain order in its proceedings, and to enforce its own legitimate orders and rules of the Court.

Furthermore, a courthouse facility qualifies as a nonpublic forum. (See e.g. *United States v. Grace* (1983) 461 U. S. 171, 178). A Court has the power to preserve the property under its control – the courthouse – for the use to which it is lawfully dedicated. This power includes the power over courtrooms, and the entire courthouse facility.

For the reasons stated above, the following order is made.

No one except authorized Superior Court of California, County of Inyo (Court), and court security personnel, may engage in photographing, recording, or broadcasting, or activating any camera, microphone, recorder, or broadcasting device in any courtroom or courthouse in the County where the Court conducts business, including courtrooms, clerk's offices and public counters, the

Self-Help Center, public service areas, hallways, waiting areas, lobbies, entrances, exits, and other interior areas of any facility in which the Court conducts business, except as permitted by California Rules of Court, rule 1.150, or as permitted by this order or other order of a judicial officer as set forth herein.

This order shall not preclude any law enforcement officer from taking appropriate steps to ensure the orderly and peaceable conduct of court business at a courthouse, including the recording of criminal activity in progress. A law enforcement officer's use of a body camera for passive recording is allowed, provided the camera is used in accordance with applicable law and the officer's departmental standards.

For purposes of this order, the following definitions apply:

a) **Camera** – Any device that has a primary function of recording images and is not part of a multifunction device such as a "smartphone."

b) **Wearable Electronic Device and Wearable Camera** – Any miniature electronic device that is worn under, with, or on top of clothing and having a primary purpose of image capture or recording (such as Personal Body Cameras, Go Pro Cameras, Lapel Pin cameras, etc.).

c) **Personal Electronic Device** – Any device capable of communicating, transmitting, receiving, or recording messages, images, sounds, data, or other information by any means including but not limited to a computer, tablet, smartphone, cell phone, or Bluetooth device.

This order applies to the use of any and all Cameras, Wearable Electronic Devices and Wearable Cameras, and Personal Electronic Devices, as defined above.

Except for representatives of media or media agencies as defined in California Rules of Court, rule 1.150(b)(2), no person shall bring into any courthouse a Camera, Wearable Electronic Device, or Wearable Camera as defined above. No person shall operate a Camera, Wearable Electronic Device, Wearable Camera, or Personal Electronic Device in violation of this order. To establish whether a person is bringing a Camera, Wearable Electronic Device, or Wearable Camera into the courthouse

for the purpose of media coverage, security personnel may require that person to provide verifiable press credentials or a copy of a current filed request seeking a court order pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 1.150.

Personal Electronic Devices may be brought into a court facility but may be used only in accordance with this order, California Rules of Court, rule 1.150, and Inyo County Superior Court Local Rule 3.4.

While in a courtroom, no one may engage in photographing, recording, or broadcasting, or activate any camera, microphone, recorder or broadcasting device, except: 1) in a courtroom where the judge has issued an order allowing media coverage under California Rules of Court, rule 1.150, or expressly granted permission under California Rules of Court, rule 1.150(d) or otherwise as permitted by law, to photograph, record, and/or broadcast. No one may carry any camera, microphone, or recording equipment, or activate the image or sound capturing feature of any computer, mobile telephone, watch, or other similar equipment in a courtroom without express permission from the appropriate judicial officer.

While outside the courtroom, but in the court facility (as described below), no one may engage in photographing, recording, or broadcasting, or activate any camera, microphone, recorder or broadcasting device, except with prior written permission from the Presiding Judge or the judicial officer responsible for the courthouse or court facility. The court facility includes all areas where the Court conducts business, including clerk's offices and public counters, the Self-Help Center, public service areas, hallways, waiting areas, lobbies, entrances, exits, and other interior areas of any facility in which the Court conducts business.

This order does not prohibit the use of portable scanners, cameras, or copiers, provided such devices are used solely for the permissible purpose of imaging documents.

Prior to entering a courtroom, cellular phones, pagers, and all other electronic communication or recording devices must be silenced or, in the discretion of the judicial officer, turned off. No such device shall be handled in any way as to indicate that a picture, audio, or video recording is being

taken except in compliance with this order and California Rules of Court, rule 1.150. Nothing in this order shall restrict a judicial officer's discretion to regulate the use of such devices in their courtroom.

This order is for the protection of the public, all parties, and court personnel, and to facilitate the fair and orderly resolution of cases. This order is subject to modification based upon specific circumstances and the discretion of an individual judicial officer in that judicial officer's courtroom or the Presiding Judge.

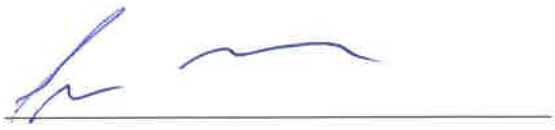
A copy of this order shall be posted on the Court's website and shall be made reasonably available or posted near every security entry point into each court building, and at such other locations as directed by the Court. Violation of this order may result in sanctions or contempt as authorized by California Rules of Court, rule 1.150(f) and other applicable law.

Any court staff or security personnel who becomes aware that a person is using a device in violation of this order is directed to advise such individual orally of this order and take steps to provide the person with a written copy of this order as soon as practical. Security personnel who have reasonable cause to believe a violation of this order has occurred are requested to prepare an incident report and promptly notify the appropriate judicial officer when circumstances warrant immediate corrective action.

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING THEREFOR, IT IS SO ORDERED.

Effective immediately, this Standing Order is to remain in effect until otherwise ordered by the Presiding Judge.

Dated: November 24, 2026



HON. STEPHEN M. PLACE, ACTING PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT