

SUPREME COURT OF YUKON

PRACTICE DIRECTION
GENERAL-6

*Use of Courtrooms, Court Registry, Atrium and
Courthouse Property, including Use of Cameras*

This practice direction adopts the attached “Policy Governing the Use of Courtrooms and the Adjacent Atrium and Contiguous Property” dated January 14, 2016, and signed by Senior Justice R.S. Veale and Chief Judge K. Ruddy.

Veale J.
January 15, 2016

Policy Governing the Use of the Courtrooms, the Adjacent Atrium and Contiguous Property

The Law Courts

Courtrooms shall be used exclusively by the Courts of Yukon, subject only to what follows:

With the permission of the Senior Justice of the Supreme Court, or the Chief Judge of the Territorial Court, exceptions may be made for the following uses:

- Education programs for judges, justices of the peace, and lawyers;
- Programs sponsored by the Law Society of Yukon and the Canadian Bar Association (Yukon Branch);
- Moot court programs for education and training purposes;
- Ceremonial occasions, such as the swearing-in of new judges, justices, and lawyers;
- Other activities which do not detract from the dignity of the Court.

The following considerations will apply in considering any of the exceptions enumerated above:

- Impact on the public perception of the independence of the judiciary;
- Wear and tear on the physical facilities;
- Security;
- Convenience of the Court.

The Atrium

The atrium in the Law Courts building provides direct access to the courtrooms and is used to post court lists of interest to those persons attending court. It is used by victims, witnesses, and accused persons in court proceedings as a waiting area. Their expectations of peace, comfort, and privacy must be respected. Moreover, for the above reasons, the atrium is a functional extension of the courts, where appropriate quiet and decorum must be maintained.

The media may use the atrium for the purposes of gaining access to the courts and for other purposes as members of the general public. The atrium may not be used by

anyone for any special purpose or function, without the prior written permission of the Senior Justice of the Supreme Court and the Chief Judge of the Territorial Court.

Cameras, Audio and Video Equipment and other Devices

Except in accordance with the *Court Security Act*, the *Court Security Regulation*, or with permission of the Senior Justice of the Supreme Court and the Chief Judge of the Territorial Court, visual or audio recording is not permitted within the Law Courts, including, but not limited to, the courtrooms, the Court Registry, the Law Library, the atrium, the front and rear pedestrian steps and ramps, or the vehicle ramp. No one, including media personnel, may impede the access of persons or vehicles to or from the building.

All enquiries for exceptional use should be directed to the Director of Court Services at (867) 667-3440. The fax number is (867) 393-6212.

[original signed by Veale J.]
Senior Justice R.S. Veale
Supreme Court

[original signed by Ruddy C.J.]
Chief Judge Karen Ruddy
Territorial Court

January 14, 2016

January 14, 2016