

SUPREME COURT OF YUKON

PRACTICE DIRECTION
GENERAL-11

*Use of Electronic Equipment During
Court Proceedings*

Members of the public cannot use cell phones and other electronic devices in courtrooms

Any member of the public who brings a cell phone into the courtroom must turn it off or set it to mute or vibrate.

Any member of the public who brings a device capable of making audio- or video-recordings into a court proceeding must ensure that its audio- and video- recording functions are switched off or inactive.

No real-time communication from the courtroom such as posting on social media, texting, messaging, or blogging may occur by a member of the public.

Members of the public who attend court virtually

There shall be no audio- or video- recordings made of any part of any court proceeding by individuals who are participating virtually in a court hearing in any capacity, such as by Zoom, Teams, video-conference, or teleconference.

Counsel and Accredited media

(i) Recording of court proceeding

Counsel and accredited media may not make a video-recording of any court proceeding, whether they appear in person or virtually.

Counsel and accredited media may make an audio-recording of court proceedings for the purposes of their notes. The recording must not be broadcast or transmitted by any means and must be destroyed after use.

(ii) Real-time communication from courtroom

Counsel and accredited media are permitted to use electronic equipment inside the courtroom for the purpose of transmitting information about the proceedings, including posting on social media and blogging. Any communication by media must be consistent with their journalistic responsibilities and in compliance with any publication bans.

(iii) General

The use of electronic devices by counsel and accredited media must be discreet and not interfere with court business. Any use remains subject to the direction of the presiding judge.

Accredited media must sign an undertaking in the form attached as Appendix A, confirming they have read this practice direction and will comply with it. Upon providing the signed undertaking to the Sheriff's office, the journalist will be issued a media identification card which they shall display or have available while in the courtroom.

Counsel and accredited media using electronic equipment to transmit information from the courtroom are responsible for identifying and complying with publication bans, sealing orders, anonymization orders, restricted court access orders and any other restrictions on publication and/or court access imposed by statute or court order.

Accreditation of media

Journalists employed by L'Aurore boréale, APTN, CBC/RadioCanada, CHON-FM, CKRW, and Yukon News are automatically accredited. Other journalists may apply in writing to the Court by filing an application in the form attached as Appendix B with the Court Registry.

Enforcement

On request by a sheriff, counsel and media using electronic equipment during court proceedings must provide identification verifying their status.

Anyone using electronic equipment in a manner inconsistent with this practice direction or in violation of an order of a judge or the Court may be:

- (a) required to turn the electronic equipment off;
- (b) required to forfeit the electronic equipment to a sheriff while in the courtroom;
- (c) required to leave the courtroom; or
- (d) declared in and punished for civil contempt of court.

Duncan C.J.
September 10, 2025

Appendix A – Practice Direction GENERAL-11

SUPREME COURT OF YUKON

Media Undertaking on the Use of Electronic Devices in the Courtroom

I, _____, member of the media with
_____, undertake that I will comply with the Supreme
Court of Yukon Practice Direction GENERAL-11, as amended from time to time, when I
am in any Supreme Court of Yukon courtroom.

I acknowledge that I am aware of and have been provided with a copy of Practice
Direction GENERAL-11. I also acknowledge that I am aware that the presiding judge or
court has the authority to restrict or prohibit my use of electronic devices at any time.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Signature

Name (printed)

SUPREME COURT OF YUKON

Between

Plaintiff/ Petitioner/Crown

And

Defendant/ Respondent/Accused

APPLICATION TO USE ELECTRONIC DEVICE DURING COURT PROCEEDINGS

Nature of proceeding: _____

Date and time of proceeding: _____

Location of proceeding: _____

Applicant's name, media affiliation, and contact information: _____

Nature and proposed use of electronic device (e.g. tablet computer for blogging)

Date

Applicant's signature

☐ Request Approved

☐ Request Denied

Justice

Date