

SUPREME COURT OF YUKON

PRACTICE DIRECTION
GENERAL-6

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

This practice direction adopts the attached *Policy Governing the Use of Courtrooms, the Adjacent Atrium and Contiguous Property* dated July 13, 2026, and signed by Chief Justice S.M. Duncan and Chief Judge J. Phelps.

Duncan C.J.
July 13, 2026

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 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or the Chief Judge of the Territorial Court, as appropriate, 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 administration of justice and 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 atrium may not be used by anyone for any special purpose or function, without the prior written permission of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Chief Judge

of the Territorial Court. Permission will be granted only to activities related to courts, legal education, access to justice, Yukon Department of Justice official gatherings, reconciliation initiatives, and other activities consistent with these activities considered acceptable on a case-by-case basis. Refreshments may be served at such events but no alcoholic beverages are permitted.

Pamphlets and signage related to court processes and the justice system may be displayed with prior approval of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Chief Judge of the Territorial Court.

Media use of Atrium

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. Media may conduct interviews on the bridge over the atrium on the second floor, to the left of the stairs (the “Designated Area”).

The media are permitted to video-record and take photographs of people being interviewed in the Designated Area provided that the privacy of other court users and staff is maintained. Video recordings and photographs must not capture anyone inside or outside the courthouse other than those people who are part of the interview and must not capture any of the workspaces of Yukon Department of Justice employees.

Cameras, Audio and Video Equipment and other Devices

Except in accordance with Court Rules, Practice Directions, this and other policy, or with permission of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Chief Judge of the Territorial Court, video or audio-recording is not permitted within the Law Courts, including, but not limited to, the courtrooms, the Court Registry, the Law Library, and the atrium, the front and rear pedestrian steps and ramps or the vehicle ramp. Photos or video-recordings with the courthouse in the background may be still be taken, however media personnel must not 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 667-3440, or to the Clerk Supervisor at 667-3429 or by e-mail to clerkssupervisor@yukon.ca.

Chief Justice S.M. Duncan
Supreme Court of Yukon

Chief Judge J. Phelps
Territorial Court of Yukon

Date

Date