

New Hampshire Superior Court

Administrative Order 2011- 50

Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 54, it is ordered as follows:

1. No cameras or audio equipment may be used in the lobby or other public, non-courtroom, area of any courthouse, except when the presiding judge, after consultation with the respective Sheriff's Office providing security at the courthouse, determines that a designated staging area is appropriate under the circumstances of a given case. A designated staging area means, any place within the lobby or other public non-courtroom area of any courthouse where cameras or audio equipment may be located. If the presiding judge determines that a staging area is appropriate, no cameras or audio equipment may be used in any area outside the designated staging area within the lobby or other public non-courtroom area of any courthouse. The respective Sheriff's Office shall have the authority to enforce this order by requiring anyone who violates it to leave the courthouse.
2. The provisions of Superior Court Rule 78, related to the use of cameras, broadcasting equipment and recording devices during courtroom proceedings shall be strictly enforced. No person shall photograph, record or broadcast any court proceeding without providing advance notice to the presiding justice that he or she intends to do so. A written request shall be provided to the clerk, or his or her designee, on a form prescribed by the court, in accordance with the provisions of Superior Court Rule 78. The form is available on the Judicial Branch website ([ww.courts.state.nh.us](http://www.courts.state.nh.us)); through the Judicial Branch Court Communications Office; or from the Clerk of any Superior Court. Under no circumstances shall any person be permitted to photograph or otherwise record

the jury.

3. The Superior Court acknowledges its obligation to provide open access to court proceedings and its responsibility to provide its constituents with a dispute resolution forum that is safe, dignified and free from unnecessary disruption. The court is also obligated to ensure that constituents can conduct their business and observe court operations without fear of intimidation, annoyance or embarrassment ;

4. In order to ensure the goals stated in paragraph (3) are met, members of the public entering the court facility for purposes of observing a scheduled event(s) in the courtroom will be expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and will be expected to refrain from any conduct which disrupts the proceedings. When the conduct of a person interferes with another person's access to the court or opportunity to conduct business in a professional and dignified manner, or when the person's behavior is otherwise disruptive to the proper administration of justice, the court, as a last resort, may exercise its contempt powers.

5. This order is issued in order to ensure uniformity of procedures throughout the Superior Court.

December 1, 2011

Tina L. Nadeau
Chief Justice
New Hampshire Superior Court

This administrative order supersedes administrative order 2011-48.