

New Hampshire Superior Court
Administrative Order

This Order is made pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 54 in an exercise of the undersigned's general supervisory responsibility for the administration and operation of the New Hampshire Superior Court. Specifically, this Order is meant to apply to the facts and circumstances at the Superior Court in Keene.

The court hereby adopts Circuit Court Administrative Order 2011-03 to take effect in the Cheshire County Superior Court effective July 1, 2011. This Order is effective on the date it bears and shall be enforced through the contempt powers of the court.

Tina L. Nadeau
Chief Justice
New Hampshire Superior Court
July 1, 2011

New Hampshire Circuit Court
Administrative Order 2011-03

This Order is made pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 54 in an exercise of the undersigned's general supervisory responsibility for the administration and operation of the New Hampshire Circuit Court. Specifically, this Order is meant to apply to the facts and circumstances at the district division of the 8th Circuit in Keene.

In recent months certain members of the public have caused disruptions of the court's ability to conduct business in Keene. In addition to their refusal to abide by court rules related to the conduct of trials and conduct in the courtroom in general, these members of the public have also congregated in the court's lobby for extended periods of time making it difficult for other members of the public to conduct business with the court and, in particular, creating conditions and disturbances which have obstructed court staff from performing their duties in an orderly way. Additionally, these members of the public have, on occasion, accosted the presiding judge as he enters and leaves the building in which the court is housed, creating an atmosphere of hostility and intimidation and a legitimate fear for the safety and well-being of the judicial and nonjudicial staff at this court.

Based upon these conditions and facts, and mindful of the holding of the New Hampshire Supreme Court in State v. Moquin, 105 N.H. 9 at 11 (1963) that, "...it is the duty and responsibility of courts to be alert to protect the judicial processes from being brought into disrepute and to act vigorously when confronted with acts or conduct which tend to obstruct or interfere with the due and orderly administration of justice..." it is ordered as follows:

1. No cameras or audio equipment may be used at any time in the court's lobby or anywhere in the public area of the court's leased premises;
2. The provisions of District Court Rule 1.4, made applicable to the Circuit Court, related to the use of cameras, broadcasting equipment and recording devices during courtroom proceedings shall be strictly enforced. Except under situations where advanced notice is not possible due to the timing of relevant events or other pertinent factors, all requests to bring cameras, broadcasting equipment and recording devices into the courthouse housing the 8th Circuit District Division shall be made in writing on a form prescribed by the court, no later than 48 hours prior to the court hearing sought to be recorded;
3. Members of the public entering the court facility for purposes of conducting court business will be expected to conduct that business expeditiously and leave the premises immediately thereafter;
4. 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 according to the instructions of the presiding judge, refrain from any conduct which disrupts the proceedings and leave the premises immediately upon the end of the court session.

This Order is effective on the date it bears and shall be enforced through the contempt powers of the court.

Edwin W. Kelly
Administrative Judge
New Hampshire Circuit Court
July 1, 2011