

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
AUSTIN DIVISION

BY: Alicia Davis
DEPUTY

§
§
§

GENERAL ORDER REGARDING ELECTRONIC DEVICES

To maintain safety, privacy, and the orderly conduct of court proceedings, the following rules apply to all electronic devices brought into the United States Courthouse for the Western District of Texas, Austin Division.

What counts as an electronic device

This order applies to any device capable of communication, recording, transmitting, or storing audio, video, or images. This includes (but is not limited to) phones, smartwatches, tablets, laptops, cameras, wearable devices (such as glasses or pendants), and similar technology, whether now existing or developed in the future. Court security personnel may ask anyone to demonstrate that a device functions as described.

Who may bring devices into the courthouse

Attorneys and parties may bring electronic devices into the courthouse unless otherwise restricted by the Court. All other individuals may bring devices only as permitted by court security or by authorization from the Court.

No recording or transmission

Unless the Court gives permission, no one may use any device to:

- take photos or videos,
- make audio recordings,
- livestream or broadcast proceedings, or
- share real-time audio or video of any person, object, or proceeding.

This rule applies anywhere inside the courthouse.

Use inside courtrooms

Unless the Court gives permission, inside a courtroom:

- devices must be silenced (no sounds, alerts, or vibrations that can be heard);
- calls, photos, videos, voice communication, and recordings are not allowed;
- texting, messaging, email, or other communication may be limited or prohibited at the Court’s discretion; and
- devices and any use of a device must not distract from or interfere with proceedings.

Use outside courtrooms

Devices may be used in public areas of the courthouse if the use is reasonable, not disruptive, and consistent with this Order.

Enforcement.

The Court, the United States Marshals Service, Court Security Officers, and courthouse personnel can enforce this Order. Anyone who violates these rules may:

- be asked to leave the courthouse,
- have their device confiscated, and/or
- face additional action as directed by the Court.

This Order is signed on April 28, 2026 and effective on May 4, 2026.



ROBERT PITMAN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE



ALAN ALBRIGHT
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE



DAVID EZRA
SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE