


PROBATE COURT OF MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA

**STANDING ORDER REGARDING PHOTOGRAPHING, FILMING, AND RECORDING IN THE  
PROBATE COURT OF MOBILE COUNTY AND PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

This matter is before this Court, pursuant to its jurisdiction as conferred by statute and Constitutional provisions. In order to better serve the public and the citizens of Mobile County, it is hereby **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** as follows:

1. Except as stated herein, the use of a “Portable Electronic Device”, as defined herein, is **PROHIBITED** in all courtrooms of the Mobile County Probate Court. Use includes but is not limited to accessing the Internet, sending and receiving audio, text, or email communications, taking photographs, filming, recording audio or video. All Portable Electronic Devices should be silenced and secured on the citizen’s person or in the citizen’s belongings before entering the courtrooms. This Order is the direct result of repeated and increasingly frequent acts that interfere with the operations of the Court.
2. “Portable Electronic Device” shall mean:  
cell phones;  
computer tablets;  
any device capable of taking a digital or actual photograph;  
any device capable of filming or recording audio or video; and  
any device capable of transmitting an audio phone conversation, audio communication, text message, email, message over a digital application, or information by other means.
3. Accessing the Internet, sending and receiving audio, text, or email communications, taking photographs, filming, recording audio or video utilizing a Portable Electronic Device in the courtrooms of the Mobile County Probate Court will be considered a violation of this Standing Order and *Ala. Code* §13A-10-130 (interfering with judicial proceedings) and will subject the offender to forfeiture of the Portable Electronic Device, removal from the Probate Court, arrest, criminal contempt proceedings, and/or fines and other penalties provided by law.
4. The Standing Order, as it pertains to photographs, filming, taking video, and taking audio recordings, may be waived in limited circumstances by the Judge of Probate.
5. This Standing Order, as it pertains the use of a Portable Electronic Device, (but not as to taking photographs, filming, taking video or recording audio or video) does not apply to Probate Court Personnel, licensed attorneys, law enforcement officers, and healthcare employees involved in either a mental health involuntary commitment or protective proceeding.

Dated: March 28, 2025

  
C. Mark Erwin, Judge of Probate