

COURTHOUSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS AND SECURITY POLICY

The following security policy shall be in effect at all United States District Courthouses in the Eastern District of Virginia:

I. Persons Entering United States Courthouses.

All persons must enter the Courthouse through the building's main entrance and will be required to pass through a magnetometer. All associated items and bags must be screened by x-ray machine or similar device. At the discretion of the Court Security Officer, the initial screening process may include the passing of a hand-held wand across the body of a person seeking entry.

II. Proof of Identification.

All persons seeking entry into the Courthouse will be required to present a valid photo ID issued by a federal or state government agency, such as a passport or driver's license. Other forms of identification may be used at the Court Security Officer's discretion. Since federal courthouses remain exempt from the provisions of the REAL ID Act to protect the constitutional right of defendants and other members of the public's access to court proceedings, **REAL IDs are not required** for entry but are considered an acceptable form of identification.

III. Permitted Personal Electronic Devices.

Cellular phones and smart watches may be brought to any Eastern District of Virginia Courthouse without prior authorization of the Court. However, all visitors bringing cellular telephones or smart watches will be required to power off said device(s) and place them into a Yondr Pouch upon entering the Courthouse. The pouch will be locked by a Court Security Officer (CSO). The pouch contains signal blocking technology such that the pouched phone and smartwatch will not receive any calls, texts, or other outside communication while in the pouch.

The visitor's pouch will be unlocked by a CSO at the Courthouse exit, as the visitor is exiting the Courthouse.

Cellular telephones and smart watches will be prohibited for large events such as portrait hangings and investiture ceremonies.

Cellular telephones and smart watches will be allowed for naturalization ceremonies.

IV. Prohibited Personal Electronic Devices without Prior Authorization.

All personal electronic devices other than cell phones and smart watches are **prohibited** from entry into the Courthouse without prior authorization from a judge

of that court. These devices include, but are not limited to, tablets, laptop computers, and any other device capable of recording audio/video or still image photography.

There are no lockers available to store these items while you visit the Courthouse.

V. Authorization for Attorneys to Bring Electronic Devices into Courthouses.

Persons receiving authorization to bring electronic equipment into the Courthouse should have proof of such authorization readily available if requested by a Deputy U.S. Marshal or Court Security Officer. Unless otherwise directed by the Court, any electronic equipment for which no judicial authorization can be produced may be confiscated by the U.S. Marshals Service.

VI. Weapons Prohibited.

Potential weapons such as firearms, knives, pocketknives, scissors, letter openers, screw drivers, mace and pepper spray are also prohibited.

THIS POLICY WILL TAKE EFFECT MAY 23, 2025.