

**State of New Hampshire
Circuit Court**

Administrative Order 2011 – 17

(This order supersedes Circuit Court Administrative Order 2011- 03
and Circuit Court Administrative Order 2011-15)

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 Administrative Judge and the appropriate office responsible for 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 it is determined that a staging area is appropriate, no cameras or audio equipment will be permitted in any area outside the designated staging area. Court Security Officers shall have the authority to enforce this order by requiring anyone who violates it to leave the courthouse.

2. The provisions of District Court Rule 1.4, Family Division Rule 1.29 and Probate Court Rule 78, made applicable to the Circuit Court, 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 District

Court Rule 1.4, Family Division Rule 1.29 and Probate Court Rule 78.
The form is available on the Judicial Branch website
(www.courts.state.nh.us); through the Judicial Branch Court
Communications Office; or from the Clerk of any Circuit Court.

3. The Circuit Court acknowledges its obligation to provide open access to court proceedings and its responsibility to provide the public with a dispute resolution forum that is safe, dignified and free from unnecessary disruption. The court is also obligated to ensure that the public 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 Circuit Court.

December 1, 2011

/s/ Edwin W. Kelly

Edwin W. Kelly

Administrative Judge

New Hampshire Circuit Court