



Policy Area:	4
Policy No.	4.1
Effective Date:	4/1/2019
Revised Date:	5/25/2021
Review Date:	5/25/2022

1. **Title:** Media Request for Electronic Coverage
  
2. **Purpose:** To ensure Media coverage is requested in a timely manner and handled by the court in accordance with the Nevada Supreme Court Rules.
  
3. **Policy:**
  - A) Duty of news reporters to obtain permission:
    1. News reporters desiring permission to provide electronic coverage of a proceeding in the courtroom shall file a written request with the judge at least TWENTY-FOUR (24) hours before the proceeding commences, however, the judge may grant such a request on shorter notice or waive the requirement for a written request. The attorneys of record shall be notified by the Court Administrator or by the clerk of the court of the filing of any such request by a news reporter. The written order of the judge granting or denying access by a news reporter to a proceeding shall be made a part of the record of the proceedings.
    2. Under these rules, there is a presumption that all courtroom proceedings that are open to the public are subject to electronic coverage. A judge shall make particularized findings on the record when determining whether electronic coverage will be allowed at a proceeding, in whole or in part. Specifically, the judge shall consider the following factors:
      - a. The impact of coverage upon the right of any party to a fair trial;
      - b. The impact of coverage upon the right of privacy of any party or witness;
      - c. The impact of coverage upon the safety and well-being of any party, witness or juror;
      - d. The likelihood that coverage would distract participants or would detract from the dignity of the proceedings;
      - e. The adequacy of the physical facilities of the court for coverage and
      - f. Any other factor affecting the fair administration of justice.
    3. Unless specifically authorized by the judge, no more than one television camera person and one still photographer should be taking pictures in the courtroom at any one time. If more than one news reporter has permission to participate, it is the responsibility of the



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news reporters to determine who will participate at any given time or, in the alternative, how they will pool their coverage. This understanding should be reached outside the courtroom and before the court session and must be done without imposing on the court or court personnel. In the event that the news reporters cannot agree on who will participate, the judge shall select the pool camera that will be allowed to participate. Priority as the video pool camera should favor a media outlet that is televising an entire proceeding.

**B) Liaisons:**

1. **Court Representatives:** The judge shall maintain communication and liaison with news reporters so as to ensure smooth working relationships and to provide any suggestions to improve these guidelines.
2. **Media Representatives:** In conjunction with these rules to govern electronic coverage during court proceedings, it is the responsibility of news reporters to designate a representative with whom the court may consult.

**C) Notice:**

1. The judge who knows that the proceeding will be covered by news reporters shall advise the attorneys and parties in the proceeding of this fact and call these rules to the attention of the attorneys, unrepresented parties and the pool coordinator or designee. It shall be the responsibility of attorneys to notify their witnesses.

**D) Revocation of Permission:**

1. If any news reporter fails to comply with the conditions prescribed by the judge, the judge may revoke that individual's permission to provide electronic coverage of the proceeding.
2. Authorization may be revoked at any time without prior notice when, in the judge's discretion, it appears that electronic coverage of the judicial proceedings is interfering in any way with the proper administration of justice.
3. If permission is revoked, the judge shall make particularized findings on the record.



**RENO JUSTICE COURT  
WASHOE COUNTY  
NEVADA**

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

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4. **Legal Authority/References:** Nevada Supreme Court Rules Part IV Rules on Electronic Coverage of Court Proceedings, Rule 230; Rule 232; Rule 245 and Rule 231.
  
  5. **Definitions:** Electronic Coverage means broadcasting, televising, recording or taking photographs by any means, including but not limited to video cameras, still cameras, cellular phones with photographic or recording capabilities or computers, pursuant to Nevada Supreme Court Rules Part IV Rule 229(d)
  
  6. **Scope and Applicability:** Except as provided by these rules, the use of cameras, cellular phones or other electronic devices to photograph or record courtroom proceedings without the express permission of the judge is prohibited pursuant to Nevada Supreme Court Rules Part IV Rule 229(2)(b).
  
  7. **Responsibility:**  
It is the responsibility of the Staff at Reno Justice Court to ensure that this policy is followed. The supervisor(s) is/are responsible for providing guidance, direction, and supervision for the policy.
  
  8. **Procedures:** Media requests can be found on our website and will be filled out by the media outlet making the request. Requests will be submitted via email to [RJCCriminal@washoecounty.us](mailto:RJCCriminal@washoecounty.us). The request must be received by the court at least TWENTY-FOUR (24) hours prior to the proceeding in which they are requesting to electronically cover. Requests are to be given to the Assistant Court Administrator or Division Supervisor for Court Room Operations. Requests will then be submitted to the assigned department judge or the Chief Judge as well as the attorneys for the parties. Once the judge makes a decision, the court will enter an order either denying or granting the request. A signed and file stamped copy of the order will be sent electronically to the requesting media outlet and the parties. If parties object they may be heard on the record. It is suggested that if parties object they set a separate hearing to discuss their objections prior to the scheduled proceeding that will be covered by the media.