

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT AND CHANCERY COURT
FOR THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF
TENNESSEE HAMILTON COUNTY

IN RE: CELL PHONE USAGE
ORDERS OF PROTECTION

EN BANC

FILED IN OFFICE
2026 SEP 28 AM 9:11
LARRY L. HENRY, CLERK
DC

**ORDER PROHIBITING POSSESSION OF CELL PHONES,
LAPTOP COMPUTERS, TABLETS, AND OTHER RECORDING DEVICES
DURING HEARINGS INVOLVING ORDERS OF PROTECTION**

This matter is before Hamilton County's Chancery Court and Circuit Court, *en banc* (the "Court"), *sua sponte*, to address security and safety concerns involving the possession and use of cellular phones, laptop computers, tablets, and other recording devices during hearings involving petitions for orders of protection.

For good cause and pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 10 (RPC 2.8(A)) and 30, Tenn. Code. Ann. § 16-1-102, Hamilton County Local Rule of Civil Practice 2.04, Tenn. R. Evid. 611(a), and pursuant to the inherent authority vested in the Court, effective October 1, 2026, the Court hereby

ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) Non-attorney litigants, witnesses, and spectators are prohibited from possessing cellular phones, laptops, tablets, smart watches, smart eye glasses, and/or other recording devices inside of the courtroom during hearings involving petitions for orders of protection;
- 2) Attorneys may possess and use the aforementioned items; however, attorneys must receive court-approval prior to recording any proceeding involving orders of protection;

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HAMILTON CO CLERK & MASTER

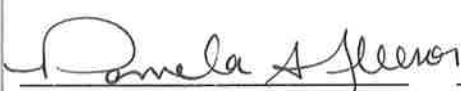
ENROLLED Sept. 28 2026 ENROLLED Sept. 28 2026
BOOK 17.26.09 PAGED 045 BOOK 16.26.09 PAGED 0403
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BOOK 21.26.09 PAGED 018 BOOK 20.26.09 PAGED 0410
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BOOK 15.26.09 PAGED 344 BOOK 20.26.09 PAGED 4461

3) Non-attorney litigants, witnesses, and spectators may possess and use their cellular phones, laptops, tablets, smart watches, smart eye glasses, and/or other recording devices in the courthouse rotunda, or may place those devices in their vehicle or in an unsecure box provided to them by the courtroom bailiff;

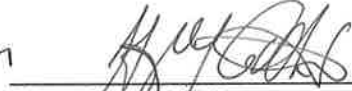
4) Items placed in the courtroom box are done so with full understanding that the Court is not responsible for any lost or stolen item; and

5) Non-attorney litigants and witnesses may be permitted use of cellular phones, laptops, and/or tablets with leave of the Court for the purpose of presenting evidence contained on the device.

ENTERED this 25 day of September, 2026.



Chancellor Pam Fleenor
Chancery Court, Part I



Chancellor Jeff Atherton
Chancery Court, Part II



Judge J.B. Bennett
Circuit Court, Division I



Judge Jennifer Peck
Circuit Court, Division II



Judge Alex McVeagh
Circuit Court, Division III



Judge Kyle Hedrick
Circuit Court, Division IV