



United States District Court

District of Minnesota

Patrick J. Schiltz, Chief Judge
Kate M. Fogarty, Clerk of Court
612-664-5080

Warren E. Burger
Federal Building and U.S.
Courthouse
316 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Edward J. Devitt
U.S. Courthouse and
Federal Building
118 South Mill Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Gerald W. Heaney
Federal Building and U.S.
Courthouse and
Customhouse
515 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Diana E. Murphy
U.S. Courthouse
300 South Fourth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

December 28, 2023

NEWS RELEASE

United States District Court, District of Minnesota New Courthouse Security Procedure

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – Beginning January 1, 2024, the District of Minnesota will implement enhanced security measures for certain hearings and trials. On days deemed necessary by a judge, all visitors to the courthouse (even those who do not plan to attend the hearing or trial that triggered the enhanced security measures) will be required to place their personal electronic devices into locked pouches for the duration of their visit. Visitors will be able to unlock the pouches as they leave the courthouse. There are exemptions allowing specific individuals to keep their personal electronic devices without placing them in locked pouches, including:

- court staff (including volunteers and externs);
- attorneys who are members of the District's bar;
- attorneys who have made an appearance in a case being heard in that courthouse on that day;
- credentialed media;
- summoned and seated jurors;
- law-enforcement officers on official business;
- federal/GSA contractors;
- persons with biometric sensors; and
- students or invitees of pre-arranged training or activities.

To be exempted from placing personal electronic devices in a locked pouch, members of the media must **carry and display their court-issued media badge when arriving at security screening**. Members of the media unable to display their credentials will be treated the same as members of the general public and required to place all personal electronic devices in a locked pouch for the duration of their visit. The bench has implemented this policy in order to improve our courthouse security and protect the safety of judges, jurors, witnesses, victims, and other individuals involved in high-profile or sensitive proceedings.



Again, this process will not occur routinely, but only in a particular courthouse on a particular day on which a judge in that courthouse (or the Chief Judge) has ordered the process to be used because the judge is concerned about a particular high-profile or sensitive matter. The general order can be found on our [website](#).

Additional questions can be directed to Public Information Officer Rebeccah Parks at [Rebeccah Parks@mnd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Rebeccah_Parks@mnd.uscourts.gov).

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