

MEDIA, OBSERVER AND SPECTATOR POLICY

The following policy for the conduct and access of attorneys, spectators, interested parties, observers, bystanders and media attending proceedings in the courts. As used herein, "proceedings" shall mean all matters pertaining to the administration, operation and function of the courts, including but not limited to civil and criminal hearings, jury and non-jury trials, and other proceedings or operations within the courtrooms. Requests for waivers to this policy must be submitted in writing to the presiding judge of the appropriate court at least three days prior to the hearing or event for which a waiver is requested. This Policy does not apply to meetings or other administrative functions not made public by rule or by law.

The following policy is hereby adopted:


1. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors of the Hunt County, Texas Courthouse, as well as the stairways and elevators serving those floors, are designated as protected areas subject to this Policy.
2. The use of binoculars, cameras, recording or other electronic equipment used for audio or visual recording is strictly prohibited in any courtroom, unless specifically authorized in this Policy.
3. No cellular phones, pagers or other wireless devices not associated with the conduct of the court proceedings are allowed to be used inside any courtroom during any trial, hearing or proceeding. All cellular phones, pagers or other wireless devices not associated with the conduct of the court proceedings must be turned off in the courtroom. Any device that the court has authorized to be used during any trial, hearing or proceeding must be muted.
4. Laptop computers may be used for the taking of personal notes, but such laptop must be muted. Web-cams are not allowed to be used in the courtrooms, unless used in connection with a trial, hearing or proceeding and then only upon prior authorization of the court.
5. All proceedings are open to the public unless made private by law or otherwise ordered by the court. The media is allowed into any and all public proceedings. However, no filming, photography, or recording of any kind is allowed in any protected area while court is in session.
6. Recording of proceedings held in chambers, proceedings closed to the public, jury selection, or jury deliberations is prohibited.
7. No audio and/or visual recording may be made in court chambers, the anterooms of court chambers or court offices. Audio or visual recordings of court staff are prohibited without express written permission of the presiding judge of the appropriate court.

8. No audio and/or visual interviews shall be conducted in any protected area while court is in session.
9. Recording of conferences between an attorney and client, witness or aide, between attorneys, or between counsel and the court is prohibited.
10. The broadcasting of any audio and/or visual recording made in violation of this Policy is prohibited.
11. All persons in protected areas shall conduct themselves in an orderly, quiet and respectful manner at all times.
12. Jurors, including potential and seated petit and grand jurors, shall not be contacted, approached or otherwise communicated with in any manner other than by court personnel. Under no circumstances shall a juror be photographed, filmed or recorded. No personal information regarding jurors, included but not limited to name, home address, telephone number or any other information acquired during selection shall be released, disseminated, shared or published except as provided by Art. 35.29 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. These prohibitions extend throughout the juror's service and to wherever the juror may be located, and shall continue until the juror is released by the court. Entrances, exits and corridors in the protected areas are to be kept clear at all times. Noise and conversation in the common areas and hallways adjacent to the courtrooms are to remain at a level such that the proceedings of the courts are not disturbed.
13. This Policy shall be posted near the door of each courtroom and copies made available in the office of the District Clerk and County Clerk.

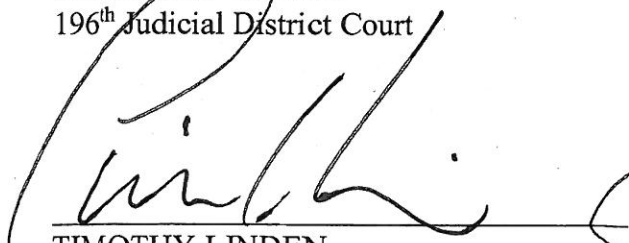
APPROVED this the 23 day of June, 2021:



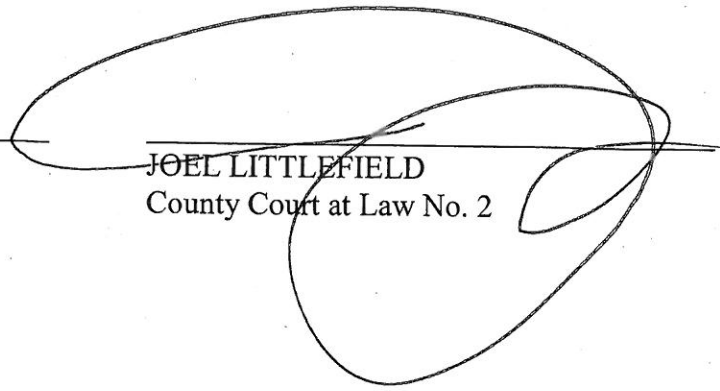
J. ANDREW BENCH
196th Judicial District Court



KELI AIKEN
354th Judicial District



TIMOTHY LINDEN
County Court at Law No. 1



JOEL LITTLEFIELD
County Court at Law No. 2