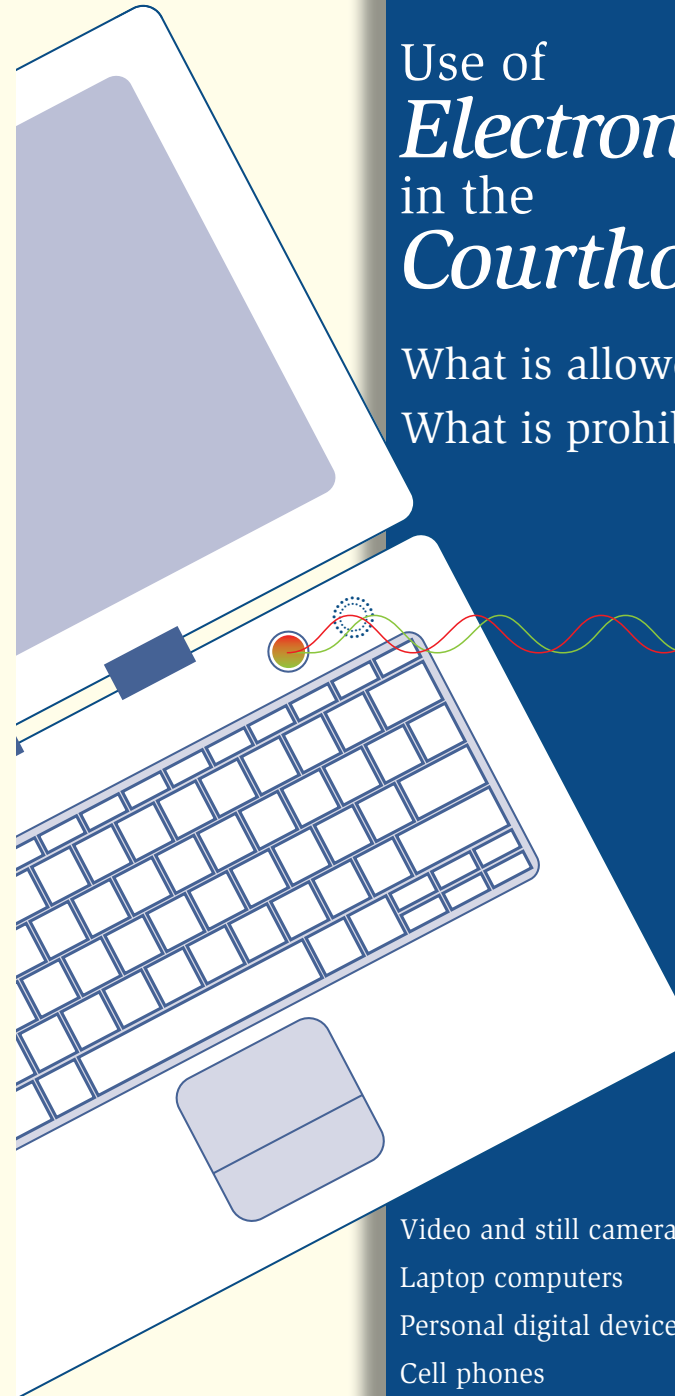


These are policies of the
Nova Scotia Judiciary

They are also available on the
Courts of Nova Scotia website
www.courts.ns.ca

If you have any questions about
either of these policies, contact:

The Executive Office of
The Nova Scotia Judiciary
Office Phone: (902) 424-3690
piccolj@gov.ns.ca



Use of *Electronic Devices* in the *Courthouse*

What is allowed?
What is prohibited?

Video and still cameras
Laptop computers
Personal digital devices
Cell phones

**Inside
the
courthouse**
**Outside
the
courtroom**

Without permission of the court, no person shall use a device such as a video/still camera, cell phone, or audio recorder inside the courthouse to produce, record or transmit audio, video or still photographs.

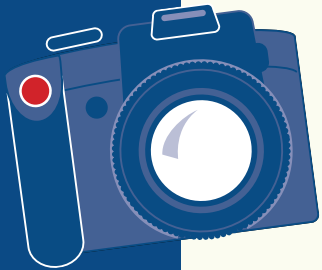


Allowed

- ✓ speaking on a cell phone
- ✓ inputting text only on an electronic device
- ✓ receiving text only on an electronic device
- ✓ transmitting text only on an electronic device

Prohibited
(see exceptions)

- ✗ taking pictures
- ✗ recording video or audio
- ✗ transmitting pictures, video, or audio



Exceptions

Members of the press and media may use audio recorders, still/video cameras, and other devices to produce, record, or transmit audio, video, or still photographs inside the courthouse but not in courtrooms, and only within designated media areas where these areas exist. In courthouses that require accreditation, this exception applies only to accredited members of the press and media. (See media guidelines – appendix F – www.courts.ns.ca)

These prohibitions do not apply

- to anyone during official ceremonies such as a swearing in and events such as law day mock trials and weddings held in the courthouse

**Inside
the
courtroom**

Without permission of the court, no person shall use an electronic device, such as a cell phone, computer or personal data assistant, in a courtroom:

- to carry on a conversation while Court is in session,
- to take photographs or record or produce a digital image,
- to transmit an audio or video recording, or
- which interferes with the proceedings or the recording of them by the Court's systems by producing any noise, vibration, or electronic signal.

Allowed

- ✓ keeping a cell phone on in vibrating mode only (but not answering it)
- ✓ receiving text only, if it does not interfere with proceedings or the courtroom recording system
- ✓ transmitting text only, if it does not interfere with proceedings or the courtroom recording system

Prohibited
(see exceptions)

- ✗ answering a phone call while Court is in session
- ✗ making a phone call while Court is in session
- ✗ taking pictures in a courtroom
- ✗ recording video or audio in a courtroom
- ✗ transmitting pictures, video, or audio in a courtroom
- ✗ using an electronic device—or having one on—that disrupts what is going on in the courtroom in any way
- ✗ using an electronic device—or having one on—that interferes with the courtroom recording system in any way



Exceptions

Members of the press and media may use audio recorders inside courtrooms to augment their note taking, but not for broadcast. In courthouses that require accreditation, this exception applies only to accredited members of the press and media. (See media guidelines – appendix F – www.courts.ns.ca)

These prohibitions do not apply

- to official ceremonies such as a swearing in and events such as law day mock trials and weddings held in the courthouse
- if an order of the Court has been obtained allowing the televising of proceedings of the Court of Appeal