

Rules of Courtroom Conduct **Stevensville City Court**

General Courtroom Conduct

Remove hats and sunglasses prior to entering the courtroom.
Turn off all phones, pagers and computers prior to entering the courtroom.
No large bags, backpacks, boxes or other containers are allowed in the courtroom.
No food or drink other than clear water in a clear bottle is allowed in the courtroom.
Stand when the Judge enters or leaves the Courtroom.
Remain quiet while court is in session.
Do not interrupt or distract the Judge or counsel while court is in session.
Wear attire that appropriately reflects the seriousness of judicial proceedings.
All spectators must remain seated while court is in session, no standing.

Media Access and Recording Devices

In order to provide for reasonable media access to court proceedings, while at the same time protecting the dignity and rights of victims, witnesses and other persons who are appearing before the Court, the following procedures shall be observed:

Broadcasting, televising, video recording, audio recording or photography in the courtroom shall be allowed only with PRIOR permission of the Court and with the following restrictions.

- 1. The use of cameras or recording devices will be limited to credentialed members of publicly broadcast television and radio networks or newspapers.**
- 2. Jurors may not be photographed or recorded in any manner.**
- 3. No portion of jury selection may be photographed or recorded in any manner.**
- 4. No victim or witness may be photographed or recorded without their consent.**
- 5. Cameras or other recording devices, when allowed, shall be placed in a fixed position and remain stationary during the entire proceeding. All devices must be used in a manner that does not in any way disrupt the proceedings.**

SECURITY

In any case where a person believes that a potentially dangerous situation might arise, that person should notify the judge or court staff immediately so that appropriate security measures can be taken.

Weapons; Only on-duty law enforcement officers or court security personnel shall be entitled to bring or carry firearms, knives, batons, pepper spray or any other weapons into the courtroom.

Search; Anyone wishing to enter the courtroom is subject to metal detector security screening and may be required to submit to a search of his or her person or belongings by law enforcement or other court security personnel.

Contact with Prisoners or Detainees; No person other than security staff, court staff or counsel of record may have contact with or communicate with in-custody prisoners or pre-trial detainees at any time said persons are in the Courtroom or being transported to or from the Courthouse.

Disobedience of Rules

Any person disregarding the rules set forth herein may be directed to leave the courtroom immediately. They may be denied re-admittance and may be held in contempt of court if a warning is ignored. Contempt is punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00 and/ or thirty days in jail MCA 3-11-303; 3-1-511.