

BCSC 2025-SO-06

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF BUTTE

ORDER RE USE OF MEDIA AND  
RECORDING DEVICES IN COURT  
FACILITIES

On October 22, 2021, following a noticed discussion and subsequent vote by the Board of Judges, the court adopted amendments to the court policy on use of media and recording devices in Butte County court facilities. The attached *Media and Recording Policy of the Butte Superior Court* shall govern all recording by members of the public and the media in Butte County court facilities. This order updates the policy to supersede Standing Order 2012-SO-05.

So Ordered.

Date:

9-15-2025

[Signature]

Hon. Michael R. Deems  
Presiding Judge

## MEDIA AND RECORDING POLICY OF THE BUTTE SUPERIOR COURT

### 1. Cameras and Devices for a Media or Recording Purpose

A. Cameras, video recorders, audio recorders, or any device capable of recording other than a cellular phone, laptop or tablet, will be permitted inside the courthouse building under the following conditions:

1. Only while in possession of an Order on Media Request to Permit Coverage (MC-510) that has been signed by a Butte Superior Court Judicial Officer<sup>1</sup> approving the use of the same for the proceeding that day. A written media request (MC-500) must be filed at least five (5) days prior to the hearing date, unless good cause is shown, and approved prior to the commencement of the hearing (see California Rule of Court 1.150).
2. Use of those devices will be limited to the scope described in the signed Order on Media Request to Permit Coverage (MC-510).
3. Subject to hand and visual search, as thoroughly as possible, with care not to damage film, tape or other media.

B. Cellular phones, laptops and tablet devices are permitted inside the courthouse building with conditional use as follows:

#### 1. Inside the courtroom:

- a. Cellular phones, laptops, tablet devices, or other objects capable of recording sound or video, shall be powered off while in a courtroom while Court is in session unless authorized by the judicial officer presiding over the matter.
- b. Use of a cellular phone, laptops, tablet device, or other objects capable of recording sound or video, is allowed only if authorized by the judicial officer presiding over the matter.
- c. Cellular phones, laptops, tablet devices, or other objects capable of recording sound or video, are to be stored out of sight unless either 1.a. or 1.b. has occurred.

#### 2. Inside a public area apart from a courtroom or in front of the courthouse under the following conditions:

- a. Photography, video recording, and audio recording will only be allowed while in possession of an Order on Media Request to Permit Coverage (MC-510) signed by the

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<sup>1</sup> A judge of another county or retired judge may approve media requests consistent with this Order if the judge will be presiding in the Butte Superior Court due to a change of venue or assignment.

1 Butte Superior Court Executive Officer<sup>2</sup>, approving the use of the same for the  
2 proceeding that day.

- 3 b. Photography will be allowed of public records in the public records viewing area with  
4 the approval of the clerk of the court and consistent with the rules and protocols on  
5 document requests and production.
- 6 c. Use of cellular phones, laptops and tablet devices in the public area that does not involve  
7 photography, recording, or broadcasting, is permitted so long as use is not disruptive to  
8 court operations and does not disturb the peace.

9 **2. Enforcement**

- 10 A. Violation of these Orders may result in a warning, confiscation of device(s), exclusion from the  
11 courthouse or courtroom, detention, or arrest, by the Butte County Sheriff or so properly  
12 designated law enforcement officer.

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26 <sup>2</sup> The Presiding Judge, Assistant Presiding Judge, or Assistant Court Executive Officer may exercise the authority in  
27 the absence of the CEO or if so designated by the CEO.