

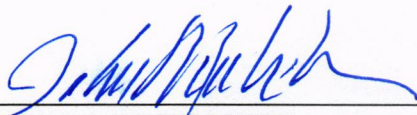
**IN THE  
SUPREME COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU**

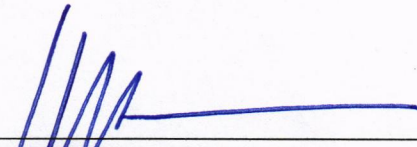
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IN RE RULE ON COURTHOUSE )  
RESTRICTIONS )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

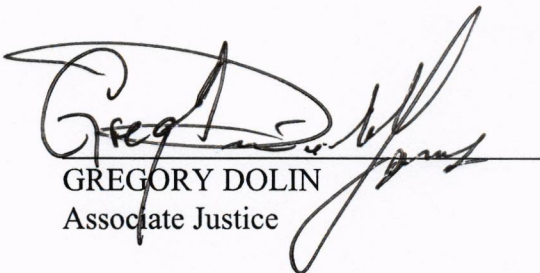
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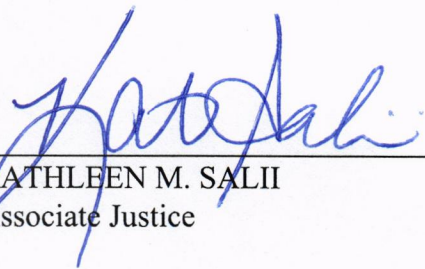
This Rule on Courthouse Restrictions is promulgated by the Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau pursuant to Article X, Section 14 of the Constitution and 4 PNC § 101. This Rule shall take effect immediately and supersedes and replaces all prior rules and policies of this Court on these subjects and establishes procedures applicable to all persons entering court facilities.

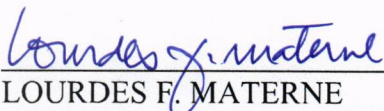
Adopted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN K RECHUCHER  
Acting Chief Justice

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
OLDIAS NGIRAIKELAU  
Presiding Justice of the Trial Division

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GREGORY DOLIN  
Associate Justice

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KATHLEEN M. SALII  
Associate Justice

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LOURDES F. MATERNE  
Associate Justice

## **JUDICIARY RULE ON COURTHOUSE RESTRICTIONS**

### **A. Cameras and Recording Devices**

Except as specifically provided herein, no camera or recording device shall be permitted in any courtroom or location where court proceedings are taking place. Individuals with cameras or recording devices in such locations shall be removed from the courtroom or proceeding location. A Judge or Justice may restrict the privilege of reentry.

EXCEPTIONS: Cameras or recording devices may be permitted in a courtroom or in a location where court proceedings are taking place under the following circumstances:

1. Cameras and recording devices are permitted if authorized for a specific occurrence by a Judge, Justice, or their authorized representatives (also known as "court official"). Any court official granting permission shall notify the Chief Court Marshal in writing of such authorization.
2. Employees of the Judiciary may possess cameras and recording devices. No recording or pictures of court hearings or court functions are allowed without specific authorization by a court official.

### **B. Computers, Tablets, Cellular Telephones, Pagers, and Similar Electronic Equipment**

The use of portable computers and tablets by attorneys is permitted in any courtroom or location where court proceedings are taking place, subject to discretion of a court official. All other individuals are prohibited from using portable computers and tablets in any courtroom or location where court proceedings are taking place.

Cellular telephones, pagers, and similar electronic equipment are permitted within court facilities. Their use is prohibited within courtrooms and in any location where court proceedings may be disrupted by their use. Judges and Justices may require that such devices be fully turned off while in a courtroom or proceeding or that they be confiscated upon entry to such locations. Without prior written authorization from a court official, such devices may not be used to photograph or record in a courtroom or in any location where court proceedings are taking place (see Section A above).

Individuals using such devices without authorization will be removed from the courtroom or proceeding location. A Judge or Justice may restrict the privilege of reentry.

**C. Weapons**

Unless authorized by law, weapons of any kind, including but not limited to knives; bladed, edged, or sharp objects; and striking devices such as nightsticks and clubs, are prohibited in any courtroom or location where court proceedings are taking place. Individuals with prohibited items shall be removed from the courtroom or proceeding location and may be restricted from reentry or subject to arrest.

**D. Liquids, Beverages, and Food**

All liquids, beverages, and food are prohibited from being brought into any courtroom or location where court proceedings are taking place. Individuals attempting to enter with prohibited items will be asked to dispose of them outside the building. Justices and Judges may grant exceptions to this policy where appropriate.

**E. Smoking**

Smoking is prohibited inside all court facilities. This includes the use of e-cigarettes and all other forms of smoking devices. Individuals smoking inside a court facility will be removed from the facility. A Judge or Justice may restrict the privilege of reentry.

**F. Chewing Gum or Betel Nut**

Chewing gum and betel nut is prohibited inside any courtroom or location where court proceedings are taking place. Individuals found chewing gum or betel nut inside a courtroom or in a location where a court proceeding is taking place will be removed from the courtroom or proceeding location. A Judge or Justice may restrict the privilege of reentry.