



## **Eighth Judicial District Court Clark County, Nevada Media Guidelines**



1. All media guidelines are subject to Nevada Supreme Court Rules on *Standard of Conduct and Technology Governing Electronic Media and Still Photo Coverage of Judicial Proceedings* (Part IV, Rules 229-247, inclusive).
2. A Court Information Officer will serve as the court representative (Supreme Court Rule 232).
3. The local media shall select a Media Representative, who shall be designated as "a representative with whom the court may consult." This Media Representative will serve for six months. The Media Representative will work with the Court Information Officer to coordinate pooling arrangements (Supreme Court Rule 232).
4. Media Requests from all radio, print and television requesting to photograph, record audio or video tape, or to broadcast a case live must be submitted to the Court Information Officer at least 72 hours before a hearing commences. The Court Information Officer will prepare the order, notify the attorneys, and deliver it to the appropriate judge (Supreme Court Rule 230). A media request submitted less than 72 hours of a hearing may be approved at the discretion of the judge if good cause can be shown. Upon approval or disapproval of the media request by the judge, the Court Information Officer will notify the requesting media. In the case of disapproval, the Court Information Officer will supply the media with the official written denial, including the reasons for the denial.
5. Access to the Arraignment Courtrooms in the Lower Level of the District Court has been granted to credentialed media by the Chief Judge at the discretion of the presiding judge, hearing master or commissioner. Credentialed media includes working media with credentials from their employer. Only one television pool camera will be allowed in the arraignment courtroom and video copies must be made to all media participating in the pool. More than two print cameras must be arranged into a pool system. Coordination of the pool must be arranged by the Media Representative and this information must be communicated to the Court Information Officer. Media must notify the Court Information Officer 24-hours in advance of plans to bring cameras to a hearing in the arraignment court by phone, fax or email.

6. When more than one member of the print media or more than one member of the broadcast media has received written approval to bring cameras or other equipment into court, the Court Information Officer will alert the Media Representative, who will then coordinate the pool activity (Supreme Court Rule 233). The pool representatives must contact the court bailiff to coordinate location of the equipment, including still cameras, video cameras, microphones, as well as the location of pool personnel. The court does not mediate disputes involving pool coverage and pool participation.
7. Placement of camera equipment in the courtroom is at the discretion of the judge and will be communicated to the media by the court bailiff.
8. To participate in the pool coverage of court proceedings, trials and hearings, all individual media outlets must have a separate court approved media request filed with the Court Clerk prior to court proceedings (Supreme Court Rule 230). In the case of a trial, the judge, for good cause, may grant permission to join the pool on the next calendar day of trial.
9. Parking is to be arranged by the media. The Media Representative will notify the Court Information Officer of special parking needs of the media pool. General media and public parking is available in lots and garages or in metered spots around the courthouse.
10. Media seating in the courtroom will be assigned by the Court Information Officer and will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis. The Court Information Officer may establish a media center for cases where there is much media interest and where overflow seating is required. The Court Information Officer may issue media passes for entry into the media center or overflow seating.
11. Still and video photographers covering courtroom events must remain in place until the judge leaves the bench, unless other arrangements have been made with the bailiff.
12. While in a courtroom, only the case approved for media entry may be photographed. The media must not deliberately photograph, videotape or broadcast any case that has not been approved by the judge.
13. The media must not deliberately photograph, videotape or broadcast the jury or individual jurors during a trial in the courtroom, hallways or immediate areas of the courtroom. The court recognizes that because of the physical layout of some courtrooms, and the general activity in any

- courtroom, it may be impossible not to photograph some jurors during court proceedings (Supreme Court Rule 238).
14. Still and video photographers must wear professional and appropriate attire in the courtroom; no shorts or sleeveless shirts are allowed (Supreme Court Rule 236). The bailiff may escort media members dressed inappropriately out of the courtroom.
  15. With prior notification to the bailiff, tape recorders are allowed inside the courtroom, but the recordings may not be used for broadcast (Supreme Court Rule 246).
  16. Cell phones, radios and pagers shall be turned off or deactivated while inside the courtroom. The judge will instruct the bailiff to confiscate equipment not turned off. Confiscated items will only be returned at the end of the day's court activity. Camera phone cameras are not permitted and must be turned off.
  17. Because of limited space in the hallways, all interviews must be conducted in designated areas within the Regional Justice Center. Those locations can be found behind the Information Booths on the first floor (RJC Canyon). Still photography, videotaping, or hallway interviews will not be allowed at any time on the court floors, unless pre-arranged by the Court Information Officer. At no time will camera crews be allowed to impede the flow of pedestrian traffic in and out of the courthouse. Media must adequately tape down or securely cover cabling and wires.
  18. Still and video photographers must not photograph within view of the security entrance of the courthouse.
  19. Juvenile court delinquency hearings are open to the media, unless the judge or court master, upon his own motion or upon the motion of another person, determines that all or part of the proceedings must be closed to the general public because such closure is in the best interest of the child or the general public (NRS 62.193). If a hearing is closed, the Court Information Officer will provide the media with the outcome of the hearing, unless the judge or court master finds that releasing such information would not be in the best interest of the child or the general public.
  20. Media organizations are responsible for ensuring that their personnel know and follow these guidelines and Nevada Supreme Court Rules 229-247. Any violation of these guidelines and rules will result in the revocation of media privileges (Supreme Court Rule 231).