

## **Madison County Circuit Court Media Policy**

### **I. Definitions.**

- A.** "News media" is defined as persons employed by or representing a newspaper, periodical, press association, radio station, television station, or wire service and covered by Indiana Code § 34-46-4-1, including any form of business entity which publishes or broadcasts the materials discussed herein. Members of the public do not fall under the definition of "news media."
- B.** "Presiding judge" means the judicial officer who is scheduled to preside or is presiding over the proceeding in the Madison County Circuit Court.

**II. General Rule.** Except as provided below, consistent with Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct Rule 2.17, the broadcasting, televising, recording, or taking photographs in the courtroom and areas immediately adjacent thereto during sessions of court or recesses between sessions is prohibited. The Madison County Circuit Court continues to welcome all members of the public and media to observe court proceedings. Pursuant to the Indiana Supreme Court's Judicial Conduct Rule 2.17, news media may request authorization for video coverage of trial proceedings. Video and audio coverage is not available for pretrial matters.

### **III. Media Coverage.**

#### **A. General Provisions.**

1. Representatives of the media may request video coverage in the Madison County Circuit Court at the discretion of the presiding judge.
2. Media representatives must give seven calendar days' notice to the presiding judge or his/her designee of a request to cover a proceeding. The form attached as Addendum A shall be used as the means for providing notice and shall be hand-delivered to the court where the request is being made. The request shall be shared with the counsel of record and parties who appear without counsel. Video coverage requests will be approved or denied at the discretion of the presiding judge.
3. The presiding judge may prohibit, limit, or terminate media coverage of an entire case, portions thereof, or testimony of witnesses at the presiding judge's discretion. The presiding judge has the power, authority, and responsibility to control the conduct of proceedings before the judge.

## **B. Limitations.**

1. Coverage of proceedings that are closed to the public is prohibited.
2. There shall be no audio or video recording or broadcast of conferences between attorneys and their clients, between co-counsel of a client, between adverse counsel, and no audio or video recording or broadcast between counsel and the presiding judge during a sidebar when counsel is at the bench.
3. The members and prospective members of the jury may not be broadcast, televised, recorded, or photographed.
4. At no time should the ingress or egress of any individual be obstructed or impeded by media representatives, personnel, or equipment.
5. The media shall not broadcast, televise, record, or photograph minors; victims of violent offenses, sex offenses, and domestic abuse; jurors; attorney-client communications; bench conferences, materials on counsel tables and the judicial bench; and any other persons or materials designated by the presiding judge. Likewise, the media shall not disclose in any way the identity of jurors, minors, or victims of sex offenses or domestic abuse.
6. It shall be the responsibility of the media (whether business entity or natural person) covered by this policy to ensure that no materials prohibited by this policy are transferred or given in any way to any person or entity which has not obtained approval on a written application as set forth in Addendum A.

## **C. Equipment and Personnel.**

1. The use of a camera and all related equipment shall be approved by the presiding judge in advance of the hearing. Only one camera shall be permitted in the courtroom. Media shall pool. Video recording shall be accomplished from existing camera systems present in the court facility where applicable.

## **D. Sound and Light Criteria.**

1. Except as otherwise approved by the presiding judge, equipment shall not produce distracting sound or light, and existing courtroom sound, video, and light systems shall be used without modification. Audio pickup for all purposes shall be accomplished from existing audio systems present in the court facility or the camera's built-in microphone.
2. Court proceedings shall not be interrupted in any way.

**E. Location of Equipment and Personnel.**

1. The presiding judge shall designate the location in the courtroom for media equipment and operators.
2. During proceedings, operating personnel shall not move about, nor shall there be placement or removal of equipment.

**F. Compliance.** Any media representative who fails to comply with this policy shall be subject to sanctions as determined by the presiding judge.

**Addendum A**

**Request for Video Coverage of Judicial Proceedings in Madison County Circuit Court**

Pursuant to the policy of the Madison County Circuit Court, the undersigned hereby request permission to use equipment in order to video record the proceedings of:

\_\_\_\_\_-vs-\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cause Number(s): 48C0 \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Court proceedings:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Duration of Request:  
\_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned desires to use the following equipment:  
\_\_\_\_\_

The proceedings that the undersigned desires to video commences on:  
\_\_\_\_\_

First and last name of personnel who will be responsible for the operation of the equipment:  
\_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned hereby certifies that the undersigned is a member of the news media as defined in Comment 2 of Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct Rule 2.17, and the operation of the equipment and the conduct of personnel will be in conformity with the Madison County Circuit Court Media Policy. Applicant certifies that applicant has read and agrees to the **Madison County Circuit Court Media Policy**

So requested this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Requesting Individual's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Requesting Individual's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Media Agency/Company/Entity Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position of Requesting Individual

\_\_\_\_\_  
Media Agency Corporate Representative Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Media Agency Corporate Representative Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Media Agency Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Media Agency Phone Number

Last amended May 12, 2023