

# Tippecanoe County Circuit and Superior Courts

## News Media Policy

### 1. Scope.

- a. Consistent with Rule 2.17 of the Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct, and subject to the approval of the presiding judge, all civil and criminal proceedings may be eligible for broadcast by the news media with the exception of proceedings closed to the public, either by state statute or Indiana Supreme Court rules.
- b. Broadcast of the following is PROHIBITED:
  - i. Police informants;
  - ii. Undercover agents;
  - iii. Minors;
  - iv. Victims of sex-related offenses;
  - v. Jurors and jury selection;
  - vi. Attorney-client communications;
  - vii. Materials on counsel or clerk tables or the judicial bench;
  - viii. Bench conferences;
  - ix. Juvenile Delinquency and CHINS matters;
  - x. Guardianship matters;
  - xi. Adoption matters;
  - xii. Mental health proceedings;
  - xiii. Protection order proceedings;
  - xiv. Matters involving trade secrets; and
  - xv. Proceedings or portions of proceedings where the Court deems it necessary for the administration of justice (i.e. to protect a witness, other person, etc.).

### 2. Definitions.

- a. **Broadcast.** Broadcast means any broadcasting or recording of in-person court proceedings by the news media using still photographic, video, or audio equipment by members of the news media. Broadcast also includes re-broadcast of live streamed proceedings.
- b. **News Media.** News media is defined as persons employed or representing a newspaper, periodical, press association, radio station, television station, or wire service and covered by Ind. Code § 34-46-4-1.

### 3. Procedure.

- a. Requests for permission to broadcast eligible court proceedings shall be made in writing to the judge presiding over the proceeding. The written application and order of the judge granting or denying such application shall be made part of the record of the proceedings.
- b. All requests shall be made in writing on the form provided by the Court and filed with the presiding judge at least five (5) business days prior to the court proceeding.
- c. Parties to matters with media interest shall receive notice of all requests for permission to broadcast and be given an opportunity to respond to said requests.

- d. Requests to broadcast the Initial Hearing of an in-custody defendant in a criminal case shall be submitted to the Magistrate no later than 12:00PM on the day the Initial Hearing is scheduled.
- e. Members of the news media who are given permission to broadcast any portion of court proceedings shall be required to check in at the court office on the day of the hearing and may be required to wear media identification provided by the court.
- f. If the presiding judge permits members of the news media to broadcast a court proceeding, the presiding judge shall post notice in the courtroom as required by Rule 2.17.

#### **4. Judicial Discretion**

- a. The presiding judge has discretion to approve or deny a request for broadcast of a court proceeding. If the judge allows broadcast, the judge has discretion to interrupt or stop the coverage if he or she deems the interruption or stoppage appropriate. The judge also has discretion to limit or terminate the broadcast at any time during the proceedings if the judge determines that these rules have been violated by the news media.

#### **5. Decorum.**

- a. The presiding judge has discretion to determine courtroom decorum. All news media personnel shall be properly attired, wear identification, and maintain proper decorum while in the courtroom.
- b. News media personnel are to be unobtrusive to the judicial process and may enter and leave the courtroom only prior to the commencement of proceedings, during recess, or after adjournment, and may not move about the courtroom during court proceedings.
- c. News media personnel may not conduct interviews in the courtroom.

#### **6. Permissible Equipment and Operators**

- a. The presiding judge has discretion to determine the quantity, type(s), and location(s) of broadcast equipment permitted in the courtroom. Video cameras, still cameras, and audio recording equipment must be unobtrusive and not produce distracting light or sound.
- b. Media equipment must not be placed within or removed from the courtroom except prior to the commencement or after adjournment of proceedings each day, or during a designated break period.
- c. Members of the media seeking to use any special equipment, including but not limited to cameras on tripods, audio equipment, etc. shall contact court staff in advance to gain entry to the courtroom and set up equipment. Failure to set up equipment prior to the start of the proceeding may result in the exclusion of said equipment from the proceeding.
- d. The judge has the discretion to require pool coverage.

#### **7. Limitations**

- a. Audio or video recording of a conference between an attorney and client, or among co-counsel, counsel and opposing counsel, or among attorneys and the judge during bench conferences is prohibited.
- b. There shall be no filming, videotaping, recording, or photographing of jurors or potential jurors.

- c. There shall be no filming, videotaping, recording, or photographing of counsel's table or any materials on counsel's table including, but not limited to, computers/computer screens, notes, files, or other trial materials.
- d. Prior to the rendition of the verdict, a criminal defendant may not be photographed or otherwise recorded in restraints while in the courtroom.
- e. Members of the general public are PROHIBITED from broadcasting court proceedings.

**8. Revocation of Permission.**

- a. Upon failure of any media representative to comply with the conditions prescribed by this policy or the judge, the judge may revoke the permission for broadcast or photograph the court proceedings.

**9. Violations.**

- a. Any violation of this policy shall be punishable by contempt of court and may include suspension and/or termination of broadcast privileges.

**10. Submission of Request Forms**

- a. Circuit Court: [circuitcourtstaff@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:circuitcourtstaff@tippecanoe.in.gov)
- b. Superior Court 1: [superiorcourtstaff@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:superiorcourtstaff@tippecanoe.in.gov)
- c. Superior Court 2: [superiorcourt2staff@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:superiorcourt2staff@tippecanoe.in.gov)
- d. Superior Court 3: [superiorcourt3staff@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:superiorcourt3staff@tippecanoe.in.gov)
- e. Superior Court 4: [superiorcourt4staff@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:superiorcourt4staff@tippecanoe.in.gov)
- f. Superior Court 5: [superiorcourt5staff@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:superiorcourt5staff@tippecanoe.in.gov)
- g. Superior Court 6: [superiorcourt6staff@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:superiorcourt6staff@tippecanoe.in.gov)
- h. Superior Court 7: [superiorcourt7staff@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:superiorcourt7staff@tippecanoe.in.gov)
- i. Magistrate: [magistratestaff@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:magistratestaff@tippecanoe.in.gov)

*Last amended October 2, 2023.*