

From: [Michael A. Gibbs](#)
To: [ADMcomment](#)
Subject: Comment on Change of Court Rules to Allow Cell Phones
Date: Sunday, June 30, 2019 2:19:32 PM

Hello,

I completely support the proposed change in our Court Rules to permit the possession and use of cell phones in our courthouses by all persons. I am a practicing attorney who has to deal with the present setup which is a seemingly random set of rules established by individual courts. Fortunately, I practice mostly in Macomb County and our circuit court does not prohibit anyone from having a phone in the courthouse. Go over to Oakland Circuit, on the other hand, and it's a different story. And, various district courts around here do prohibit non-attorneys from bringing their phones in. Aside from these prohibitions being unnecessary, it's frustrating that I can't reach a client if they are in the courthouse but went to the wrong courtroom, or some other location in the courthouse, since they had to leave their phone in the car. I've had occasions where I am trying to resolve a case and my client indicates that they can call a family member or employer for information that will help. Except...their phone is in the car and they don't have the number memorized!

And, as for Oakland Circuit Court specifically, I've witnessed first hand many times that citizens who unknowingly try to enter the courthouse with their phones have been met with a very rude and unprofessional admonition from an Oakland County deputy. Their entrance security detail treats people rude in general, but the sight of a cell phone seems to invite a rather ill-mannered reaction (as an aside, here in Macomb Circuit we've got a great set of court officers who really do treat people professionally and with much courtesy).

As we know from being in our courts regularly, any time people have cell phones there will always be idiots who don't silence them in the courtrooms. There will also be idiots who try to video record in the courthouses. However, that is an issue which can be addressed per the proposed rule change. The vast majority of persons inside the courts are orderly and just trying to get their business handled so they can leave.

Anyone who would argue otherwise, please visit us in Macomb Circuit and see for yourself - we really don't have problems with cell phones.

-Michael Gibbs
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