

**From:** [Barry Malone](#)  
**To:** [ADMcomment](#)  
**Subject:** Comment to MCR 8.115  
**Date:** Monday, July 1, 2019 9:33:32 AM

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I am submitting this comment regarding the proposed amendment to MCR 8.115 regarding allowing cell phones in courthouses. I am employed as a staff attorney with a legal aid organization serving southeastern Michigan. I represent low-income individuals in litigation matters. I am writing to support the amendment to allow cell phones in the courthouses. I have encountered numerous issues that wouldn't have been a problem if my client had had their phone with them. Whether it's not being able to fill out a form because they haven't memorized their phone number or not having a piece of evidence because it is only saved to a client's phone, I encounter a problem weekly that directly impacts my ability to represent the client to the fullest. Often the issues are resolvable, but take additional time to address. Time that I could be better spent serving additional clients.

My main reason for writing a comment is to raise the point about how it impacts the clients. Many of my clients do not have their own transportation. Often, and increasingly, my clients have used a ride sharing service like Lyft or Uber to get to court. Once at court, they are stranded because they need their phones to access the application that allows the riding sharing service to pick them up. Unfortunately, this often leaves clients with no way to get home from court.

Allowing litigants to bring their phones into court will allow for better and fuller access to the legal system by the most economically disadvantaged in our society.

Kindest regards

Barry Malone  
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