

**From:** [Justin Cassell](#)  
**To:** [ADMcomment](#)  
**Subject:** proposal comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 16, 2019 11:37:12 PM

---

Hello,

I am a resident of Pontiac, MI. I understand that the time period for admitting comments about the proposal to allow cell phones in courthouses has expired, but I was out of state at the time that the local media made public that comments were being taken for this proposal. Having just learned of this matter, I would like to issue a comment, as this matter has been a huge issue for me over the past several years.

I strongly desire to see cell phones allowed in courthouses. Many are mentioned the use of electronic documents, but it seems that those in power are not considering the fact that many rely on their cell phone for transportation. I do not own a vehicle, and rely heavily on ride share apps to get around. If I cannot bring my cell phone to the courthouse, I am being cutoff from my ability to get transportation. I served jury duty at the 50th District Court in Pontiac, about 3 years ago, and several potential jurors had this same problem, and had to rely on the strangers working at a nearby coffee shop to hold onto our phones for us, while we were on jury duty. This problem is even worse at some courthouses, where there is no nearby business willing to hold your phone, and no public transportation going to and from the site. Many various functions require citizens to visit their county courthouse. The 6th Circuit Court courthouse, in Pontiac, MI is not served by public transportation, does allow cell phones, and does provide any place for cell phone storage. This makes it extremely difficult for people who do not own vehicles to conduct business that must be accomplished at their county courthouse. This banning of cell phones is virtually uniform throughout Oakland County. Prior to living in Oakland County, I resided in Saginaw County. The Saginaw County courthouse provided lockers, at the time, that could be rented for a quarter, in which one could store belongings that were not allowed to be brought into the courthouse. However, at courthouses throughout Oakland County, they merely post signs telling people to leave their cell phones in their cars. But, what about those of us that don't have cars? We have no where to leave our phones when visiting these courthouses. Apparently the elitist judges of Oakland County do not consider the difficulty imposed on those that are not in the same tax bracket as them and do not share their socioeconomic privilege. It should, also, be noted that the cell phone bans can be a major difficulty for citizens that are temporarily living out-of-state (such as military members and some college students) that need to visit briefly to take care of government related business at a courthouse. Many of these people may have vehicles at their out-of-state location, but not currently have a vehicle here in Michigan. Again, ride share apps tend to be the primary mode of travel, in these situations.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my input on this matter. I hope that you will, please, change current laws to allow for cell phones in courthouses, so that the applicable policies will be fair to everyone. Not just the elite, who know that they will always have their own vehicle.