

United States District Court Southern District of Illinois



MEDIA ACCESS AGREEMENT

By signing this agreement, I certify that I am a media representative employed by a newspaper company, magazine publishing company, internet news outlet, blog, radio company, or television company. I will comply with the media access policy of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, as set forth in Administrative Order Number 322 and in the agreement below.

My agreement to this policy provides me with credentials which allow for the use of the following electronic devices: laptops, tablets, and smartphones. Nonverbal use of these electronic devices in courtrooms shall be permitted provided it is silent and does not create any disturbance. The electronic device may not be used for any purpose other than preserving or conveying the events in the courtroom or courthouse. At no time may any of the electronic devices be used to verbally speak to anyone or to visually or audibly record any event. The presiding judge in the courtroom is authorized to determine whether the use of an electronic device is disturbing to the proceeding at hand and to direct its discontinuance if found to be disruptive.

The Court reserves the right to perform a background check and due diligence examination on issues which would bear directly on the request for media credentials. Should that due diligence result in a rejection of credentials, the applicant will be given an opportunity to discuss the reasons for said rejection with the Chief Judge in an effort to determine if a reversal of the determination may result.

Violation of this policy will require the immediate deletion of the offending material from the media representative's device(s). Furthermore, the credentials of the media representative will be suspended by the Chief Judge for no less than three months for the first violation, no less than six months for the second violation, no less than nine months for the third violation, no less than one year for the fourth violation, and any violations beyond that at the discretion of the Chief Judge.

Photographs, video, and audio recordings will not be allowed unless and until the rules of the Judicial Conference change to permit it. Any person who is found to be recording visually or audibly any proceeding in the courthouse, or photographing the same may be subject to a contempt proceeding and/or any additional remedy or penalty provided by statute in order to enforce the rules of the Judicial Conference.

Name of Media Outlet: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____