

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

In Re:)
)
 GENERAL ORDER #2013-4) Court Security and Electronic
) Devices in the Courthouse
)

ORDER

The within *Order* applies to the United States Bankruptcy Courthouses in Pittsburgh, Erie and Johnstown and supersedes any prior orders or policies of this Court governing Court security or electronic devices in the Bankruptcy Courthouses.

AND NOW, this *30th* day of *May, 2013*, it is hereby **ORDERED** as follows:

(1) Any person entering the United States Bankruptcy Court is prohibited from doing so with a weapon, i.e., a firearm, mace, knife, stun gun, or any other instrument considered as a weapon, concealed or otherwise, unless authorized to do so by the Court.

(2) Any person seeking entry to the United States Bankruptcy Court shall enter through the security equipment installed therein. Should the equipment be activated by the sounding of an alarm or meter reading, that person shall be denied entry to the United States Bankruptcy Court until the person clears the security equipment and other security measures in place to the satisfaction of the Court security personnel.

(3) The United States Marshal for the Western District of Pennsylvania shall provide for the inspection and, if necessary, temporary storage of packages, cellular telephones, pagers, computers and other electronic devices in the custody of any person entering or leaving the United States Bankruptcy Court.

(4) Any confiscated weapon or other property left unclaimed with the Court security personnel after thirty (30) days will be destroyed by the United States Marshals Service.

(5) Except as otherwise ordered by the presiding judicial officer in any particular case:

(A) All forms, means and manner of taking photographs, recording, broadcasting and televising are prohibited in any room, corridor or stairway leading thereto, on any floor occupied entirely or in part by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, or any other building

designated as a place for holding judicial proceedings whether or not Court is in session.

(B) Any Attorney with business in this Court may possess in the Bankruptcy Courthouse cell phones, mobile devices, laptops or other similar devices (hereinafter, “electronic devices”). Electronic devices may be used to send or receive messages only from outside the courtrooms.

(C) For purposes of this Order, “members of the news media” shall consist of representatives of the person or entity that regularly and customarily is engaged in the business of gathering, marketing and/or disseminating the news. Members of the news media may possess electronic devices in the Bankruptcy Courthouse for purposes not prohibited by this rule. Electronic devices may not be used in a courtroom by the media. In order to prevent a breach of security occasioned by the presentation of false media credentials to court security officers, except as otherwise ordered, members of the news media must produce employer-issued photo identification upon seeking entrance into the Bankruptcy Courthouse with electronic devices.

(D) All electronic devices shall be turned off prior to entering courtrooms and judicial chambers.

(E) In those rare instances in which jurors report for duty, those persons may possess electronic devices in the Bankruptcy Courthouse for purposes not prohibited by this rule. Electronic devices may only be used in the jury room and may not be brought into a courtroom. Jurors shall deposit all electronic devices in the receptacles provided for that purpose prior to entering into the jury room to commence deliberations.

(F) Unless exempted above, except for purposes of investitures, ceremonial occasions and other similar events, members of the public may not possess electronic devices in the Bankruptcy Courthouse. All electronic devices possessed by members of the public seeking entry into the Bankruptcy Courthouse must be surrendered to the Court Security Officers at the entrance to the Bankruptcy Courthouse, and will be returned upon exiting the Bankruptcy Courthouse.

(6) In addition to any of the foregoing, a judicial officer may, in the judicial officer’s discretion, prohibit electronic devices in that judicial officer’s courtroom and chambers and may direct screening procedures to be conducted by the Court Security Officers/United States Marshal Service.

(7) Court staff, court security officers and deputy marshals may confiscate electronic devices being used in violation of these rules.

(8) Nothing in this *Order* is intended to prevent Bankruptcy Courthouse employees from using and possessing electronic devices in the Bankruptcy Courthouse.

(9) Except as to the decisions made by a specific judicial officer in regard to his or her chambers and courtroom, any disputes regarding the possession or use of electronic devices hereunder may be referred to the Chief Judge for resolution.

(10) The Court Security Officers/United States Marshal shall post copies of this Order at all entrances to the Bankruptcy Courthouse. Violators of this *Order* will be subject to sanction for contempt of court.

(11) The within *Order* is ***IMMEDIATELY*** effective.

/s/
Thomas P. Agresti, Chief Judge

/s/
Judith K. Fitzgerald, Bankruptcy Judge

/s/
Jeffery A. Deller, Bankruptcy Judge

/s/
Carlota M. Böhm, Bankruptcy Judge