

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PILOT PROGRAM

Pursuant to D.C.COLO.LCivR 1.1(h) and D.C.COLO.LCrR 1.1(h), the United States District Court for the District of Colorado provides this public notice and opportunity for public comment regarding a pilot program involving the regulation of cellular and smart phones in designated United States Courthouses in the District of Colorado. This pilot program is intended to regulate and control the use of cellular and smart phones to prevent their unauthorized use and the associated adverse consequences in designated courthouses in the District of Colorado. Control is achieved by requiring members of the public to store their phones in a Yondr pouch (a secure, lockable, fabric bag) while they are in the courthouse. Further details of this pilot program are attached.

A thirty-day comment period will commence with the date of this Public Notice issued October 15, 2026. Comments from the public may be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. MST on Monday, November 16, 2026. Comments can be emailed to [LocalRule Comments@cod.uscourts.gov](mailto:LocalRuleComments@cod.uscourts.gov) or sent by U.S. mail to: Clerk of Court, ATTN: Local Rules Comment, Alfred A. Arraj U.S. Courthouse, 901 19th Street, Denver, CO 80294.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

PILOT PROGRAM TO REGULATE THE USE OF CELLULAR AND SMART PHONES IN DESIGNATED UNITED STATES COURTHOUSES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Purpose:

The unauthorized use of the audio-video recording capabilities of cellular and smart phones inside the Alfred A. Arraj, United States Courthouse-Annex by members of the public is on the rise, threatening the safety and security of all who have a lawful purpose for being in the courthouse. This pilot program is intended to regulate and control the use of cellular and smart phones to prevent their unauthorized use and the associated adverse consequences in designated courthouses in the District of Colorado. Control is achieved by requiring members of the public to store their phones in a Yondr pouch (a secure, lockable, fabric bag) while they are in the courthouse.

Term:

As authorized by D.C.COLO.LCivR 1.1(h)(2) and D.C.COLO.LCrR 1.1(h)(2), the term for this pilot program shall not exceed 18 months but may be extended for one six-month period in conjunction with the promulgation of a corresponding local rule.

Affected Local Rules:

As provided below, the following local rules will be amended or suspended to the limited extent necessary to implement this pilot program:

D.C.COLO.LCivR 83.1(c); and
D.C.COLO.LCrR 57.3(c)

Legal Authority:

The Court has the inherent authority and the concomitant duty to provide for the safety and security of all who enter or work in a United States courthouse in the District of Colorado. The Court has the express authority to enact this pilot program under the provisions of D.C.COLO.LCivR 1.1(h) and D.C.COLO.LCrR 1.1(h).

Notice and Comment:

A Notice and Comment Period of thirty days will commence from the date the Public Notice is given. The remaining provisions of this Pilot Program will take effect on final Court adoption of the Plan after consideration of public comments received during the comment period.

Text of the Pilot Program:

D.C.COLO.LCivR 83.1 and D.C.COLO.LCivR 57.3 RECORDING DEVICES

- (c) **Permissible Devices.** Except as provided in Subdivision (e), after clearing security, an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a cellular telephone, a smart phone, a laptop computer, an electronic tablet, a smart watch, or a personal data assistant (PDA), regardless of the technology used or the name by which the device is marketed, may be brought into any public area in the United States Courthouse or any location in which court business and proceedings are conducted.
- (e) **Use and Control of Cellular and Smart Phones:** Except for the persons identified in Paragraph (1), any person who attempts to enter a United States courthouse designated by the Court for inclusion in this Pilot Program with a cellular or smart phone shall place and lock the phone in a Yondr pouch (a secure, lockable, fabric bag), or its functional equivalent, e.g., a NuKase, which shall be available at the entrance of the courthouse. The person whose phone is securely locked in such a pouch or bag shall keep the pouch or bag with them on or about their person at all times and shall be solely responsible for the phone and the pouch or bag. Such person shall not attempt to open the pouch or bag to access or use the phone unless permitted to do so by a judicial officer or until exiting the courthouse at which time the pouch or bag may be opened by use of the special magnetic base in the possession or control of a court security officer. Once the phone is properly removed from the pouch or bag, the pouch or bag shall be returned to the designated area. Such person shall not use their phone until after exiting the courthouse. [Please note: Courthouse personnel responsible for courthouse security do not provide medical advice regarding use of the pouch or bag with implanted medical devices. Magnets may interfere with certain medical devices such as shunts or cardiac devices. For users with medical shunts or other devices, please consult with a medical professional or refer to the medical device manufacturer's guidance on safe distance.]
- (1) The following are exempt from the requirements of Subdivision (e):
- (A) Law enforcement officers;
 - (B) Federal prosecutors and accompanying staff;
 - (C) Federal public defenders and accompanying staff;
 - (D) Attorneys-at-law with a federal or state bar card and accompanying staff;
 - (E) Prospective jurors and jurors;
 - (F) Participants and their guests in naturalization ceremonies;
 - (G) Contractors and subcontractors authorized to be in the courthouse;
 - (H) Court employees and judicial staff;
 - (I) Members of the media with proper credentials;

- (J) Unrepresented parties while attending their own hearings or trials;
and
- (K) Any person authorized in writing by a federal judicial officer.

(ef) Sanctions for Violations.

APPROVED BY THE COURT for public comment on October 14, 2026