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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

NOTICE TO THE BAR

June 2, 2026

TO: Members of the Bar, Litigants, Judges and Court Staff

FROM: Maria Del Valle-Koch, Director and Chief Judge of Compensation 

SUBJECT: USE OF RECORDING DEVICES/PHONES

This directive is sent in accordance with Supreme Court Guideline #11-20 which was promulgated by the Administrative Office of the Courts on April 27, 2020 which regulates access to and use of *electronic devices* by court users whether in person or using remote (video and phone), and in accordance with R. 12: 235-1.4 of the Workers' Compensation Act. Unless Authorized by the Director and Chief Judge of Compensation, attorneys and litigants are prohibited from recording any Court proceeding by use of *electronic devices*, cell phones, and/or personal recording devices.

Policies prohibiting uses of *electronic devices* and possible sanctions for noncompliance are presently displayed in each Vicinage in accordance with the Directive #11-20, and prohibited areas of use include courts, judge's chambers, conference rooms, TEAMS meetings, common areas, and telephone conferences.

Any person who uses an *electronic device* to transmit, broadcast, record and/or take photographs without court approval and in willful violation of this policy shall be referred for action, and may be held in contempt of court, in violation of R 1:10-1 punishable by a term of imprisonment not to exceed six (6) months or a fine of up to \$1,000, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:43-3 and N.J.S.A. 2C:43-8 and may be charged with a violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:29-9 (Criminal Contempt), as deemed appropriate by law enforcement. Further, any *electronic device* used in willful violation of this of Directive #11-20 may by subject to seizure and forfeiture pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:64-1.



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